WEDNESDAY
December 14, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Vol.53 • No.294

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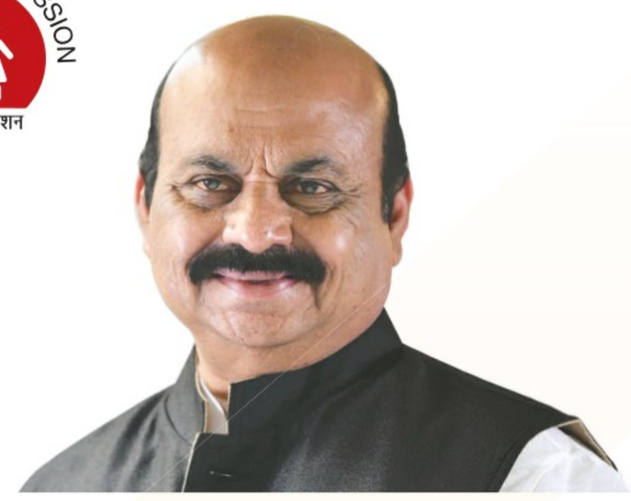
Namma Clinic

Department of Health and Family Welfare

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister, Govt. of India



Shri Basavaraja S Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka

People's Clinic.
Namma Clinic.

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Dr. K. Sudhakar
Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education of Karnataka, discussing the launch of Namma Clinic.

For the first time in India, launching 100 clinics across the state.

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To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.

Wear Mask · Follow physical distancing · Maintain hand hygiene · Avoid crowded places · Don't spit in public places · Get yourself voluntarily vaccinated

J BG-BGE

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ECONOMIC RELATIONS

India-U.K. free trade deal talks under way

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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Students take off in record numbers

NEWS » PAGE 12

MODERNA-MERCK INITIATIVE

Cancer vaccine trial yields positive results

WORLD » PAGE 13

JUDICIARY AND THE EXECUTIVE

'The executive's onslaught is disturbing'

Dealing with the Collegium system

EDITORIAL » PAGE 9

BATTLE BEGINS

India-Bangladesh Test series from today

SPORT » PAGE 15

Panel for internal reservation for SCs set up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a significant political move ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, the BJP government in Karnataka on Tuesday constituted a five-member Cabinet sub-committee to make recommendations on providing internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs). Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy is heading the sub-committee.

The other members in the panel are Water Resources Minister Govind M. Karjol, Fisheries Minister S. Angara, Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chavan, and Health & Family Welfare Minister K. Sudhakar. Mr. Karjol, Mr. Angara and Mr. Chauhan belong to Scheduled Castes.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Chinese tried to change LAC status quo: Rajnath

Indian Army bravely prevented the PLA from transgressing into our territory and compelled them to return to their posts, Defence Minister tells Parliament about the clash at Yangtse

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Calling for peace: The Chinese side was asked to maintain peace and tranquillity along the border, Rajnath Singh told Parliament. PTI

The Chinese troops unilaterally tried to alter the status quo on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 and the move was contested by Indian soldiers in a firm and resolute manner, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

Making a statement in both Houses of Parliament on the clash at Yangtse in Tawang sector, Mr. Singh said: "The ensuing face-off led to a physical scuffle in which the Indian Army bravely prevented the PLA [People's Liberation Army] from transgressing into our territory and compelled them to return to their posts. The scuffle led to injuries to a few personnel on both sides."

"I wish to share with the House that there are no fatalities or serious casualties on our side," he said.

Meanwhile, speaking to the media outside Parliament, Home Minister Amit Shah said: "No one can capture an inch of land till the Narendra Modi government is in power. The BJP government will not allow any incursion on land. We will not leave an inch of land. The bravery shown by soldiers is appreciable, they have saved our land."

CONTINUED ON
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UPROAR IN PARLIAMENT
» PAGE 10

PLA blames India for latest face-off at LAC

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

The Chinese military on Tuesday blamed India for triggering the December 9 clash by "illegally crossing" the Line of Actual Control (LAC). People's Liberation Army Senior Colonel Long Shaohua, spokesperson for the Western Theatre Command, said the Chinese military was conducting "a regular patrol in the Dongzhang area" on "the Chinese side of the LAC".

CONTINUED ON
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SC judge recuses herself from hearing Bilkis Bano's petition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge, Justice Bela M. Trivedi, on Tuesday recused herself from hearing a writ petition filed by Bilkis Bano against a Gujarat Government decision to prematurely release 11 men sentenced to life imprisonment for gang-raping her and murdering her family members during the 2002 riots.

Justice Ajay Rastogi, who led the Bench, said the writ petition would be returned to the Chief Justice of India to be listed before another Bench of the top court.

Justice Trivedi hails from Gujarat. She started her judicial career in the district judiciary in 1995, and worked in different posts, including as Registrar-Vigilance in the High Court, Law Secretary in the Gujarat Government, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court judge, Special Judge etc. She was elevated as a Gujarat High Court judge in February 2011.

In her writ petition, Ms. Bano, through advocate Shobha Gupta, has argued that the early release of the convicts amounted to a violation of her fundamental right to life. She has said the remission policy of the State of Maharashtra, where the trial happened, and not Gujarat, would have governed the case.

Others like Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) leader Subhashini Ali and Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra have also challenged the early release of the convicts. The court had then given the petitioners time to respond to a Gujarat Government affidavit on the matter.

NEARBY

Auto, cab drivers oppose move to allow e-bike taxis

BENGALURU
The Transport Department's move to allow e-bike taxi operations in the city has not gone down well with auto and taxi drivers. » PAGE 2

NWDA asked to stop formulation of DPR

BENGALURU
In respect of Almatti-Pennar proposed link project, the State said that the NWDA shall not go ahead with the formulation of DPR of Krishna-Pennar link project. » PAGE 4

OPPORTUNITIES
» PAGES 6 & 7

Uniform yearly examinations for Class 5 and 8 students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

All students of Classes 5 and 8 in the State will henceforth be assessed under a single uniform evaluation tool, as the government has decided to analyse the learning gaps, progress in learning and results of the learning recovery programmes (kalika chetharike) which were introduced post COVID-19. Under this, the students will have to take up an annual examination at the end of the academic year, for which the question papers will be set up by the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) based on the syllabus covered in the entire year.

However, for the ongoing academic year, as the evaluation for the previous tests and exams (FA 1, FA 2 and SA1) have already been marked on Students' Achievement Tracking System (SATS), the exams will be based on the syllabus covered between November 2022 and the first week of March 2023, according to a circular released by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) on Monday.

"The question papers will be set up by the KSEAB and the exams will be conducted at school levels. After analysing the evaluation of the examinations on a subject, school, taluk/cluster basis, the government will come up with a "need-based action plan" to strengthen the teaching - learning process", the department said.

Supplementary examinations

The circular also says that students who fail in the regular (annual) examinations will be given a chance to take supplementary examinations within two months after the result. The government has now allowed the schools to retain students who fail even in the supplementary examination in the same class. "No child shall be expelled from a school till the completion of elementary education," the department has clarified.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5

P.S. Vastrad is Murugha Mutt administrator

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The State government on Tuesday appointed retired IAS officer P.S. Vastrad as administrator to Murugha Mutt Trust of Chitradurga and the SJM Vidya Peetha that runs educational institutions.

The appointment comes in the wake of a demand by leaders and members of Veerashaiva Lingayat community as seer of the mutt Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru is in judicial custody since September 1, after he was arrested under the PoCSO Act on the charge of sexually harassing minor girls.

The State government has taken the decision to appoint the administrator to the mutt and the education society, based on advice of the Advocate-General and a report of the DC of Chitradurga.

After the Advocate-General recommended that an administrator can be appointed under Article 162 of the Constitution for protecting the trust property and ensuring proper functioning of the educational institutions, the government had, on November 4, sought a report from the Deputy Commissioner.

The DC submitted the report to the government on November 10, mentioning that it had become difficult to ensure proper functioning of the educational institutions and the mutt as the seer was in judicial custody.

OIC chief's visit to LoC sparks criticism

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday strongly condemned the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) saying the organisation had "lost its credibility".

The comment from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came after the organisation's Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha visited the Line of Control (LoC) from the Pakistani side.

The General was briefed about the situation by the Pakistan military.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 11

Goal for city's nightlife: FIFA fever forces police to extend restaurant deadline by 2.5 hours for 2 days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

FIFA fever has scored a goal for the city's nightlife, albeit temporarily. Considering the request for the extension of a deadline during FIFA semi-final matches, the City Police Commissioner has ordered to extend the closure timings for hotels, restaurants and eateries in and around the city by 2.5 hours for two days.

Members of the French team at a practice session in Doha on Dec. 13 on the eve of their semi-final match against Morocco. AFP

In a circular issued on Tuesday, Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy said that the order was made following a representation by members of the federation of clubs seeking permission to provide food for football fans at public places during the semi-finals.

The order was made under the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, allowing the eateries, hotels and restaurants to function till 3.30 a.m. instead of the existing 1 a.m. for two days. However, they have to abide by the excise and sound and pollution control prescribed rules. Those who violate the rules and are found operating between 3.30 a.m. and 6 a.m. during this period will be liable for legal action as per the KP Act. These rules are however not applicable for airport, bus stand and railway stations, the circular stated.

A. Subramaneshwara Rao, Additional Commissioner of Police, Administration, told *The Hindu*, that the rules are applicable only for two days on special request for the football season. The provision for extension will be monitored by the police who will ensure that there will be no scope for any violations and to ensure law and order, he said. Hotel managements have welcomed the move. "This is a welcome move and we're thankful to the Police Commissioner as well as the government for such initiatives which will help our business recover our losses from the last two years. We also request them to be liberal during the New Year's celebrations," said Veerendra Kamat, Honorary Secretary, Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers' Association.

Football enthusiasts are thrilled. "The feeling of watching important matches with fellow sport enthusiasts at restaurants and pubs is unmatched.

Arranging such viewing parties at home would have been very time consuming and this move will help us enjoy the game in a convenient and fun way," said Sourav M., a private firm employee from HSR Layout.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Bad loans written off by banks in the last five years

10.09 In ₹ lakh crore, the worth of the bad loans written off by banks during the last five financial years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed Parliament. Non-performing assets, including those in respect of which full provisioning has been made on completion of four years, have been removed by way of write-off. PTI

More than 20 monkeypox cases in India this year

23 The number of confirmed monkeypox cases reported till December 8, 2022, the Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar informed the Rajya Sabha. On being asked if the government had conducted a study on the spread of such diseases, Mr. Pawar said that the Department of Health Research has a network of 145 virus research and diagnostic laboratories. PTI

Postgraduate medical seats remain vacant even after counselling

3,774 The number of postgraduate medical seats to remain vacant after counselling, out of the 60,202 available seats for 2021-2022, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya informed the Rajya Sabha. Of the 92,065 UG medical seats in 2021-2022, 197 seats were vacant. 17.64 lakh students appeared for the NEET-UG exam in 2022. PTI

Only 2% of cybercrime complaints get registered as FIRs

1,500 The number of complaints of cybercrime reported daily across the country in the last three years of which only 2% have turned into FIRs, the Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed Parliament. More than 16 lakh cybercrime incidents have been reported and more than 32,000 FIRs have been registered. PTI

FCRA licences to NGOs cancelled due to alleged violation of law

1,811 The number of NGOs whose FCRA registration was cancelled by the government between 2019-21 for alleged violation of law, the Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed Parliament. Any NGO which intends to receive foreign funding must register under the FCRA. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Analysing U.S.-China bilateral ties

What events led to the unprecedented downturn of relations between the two countries? Is there a growing effort from both sides to reset the relationship to the pre-trade war level? Is the complex relationship between the two powers set on an irreversible trajectory of rivalry?

EXPLAINER

Anand V.
Uday Nitin Patil

The story so far:

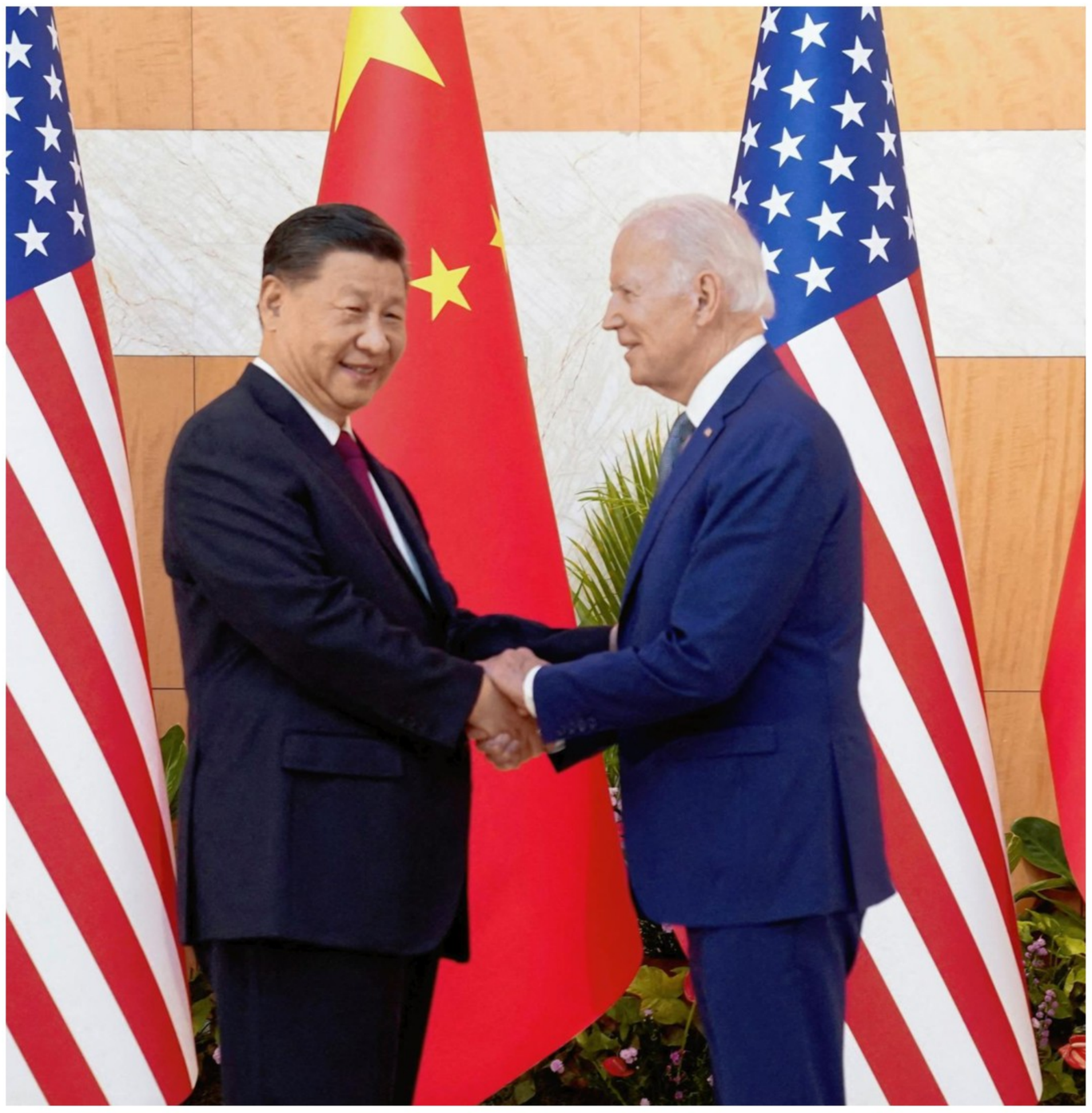
U.S.-China relations have witnessed an unprecedented downturn in 2022. Nancy Pelosi's historic visit to Taiwan in August has deeply upset bilateral ties. The imposition of heavy restrictions on China's semiconductor industry by the U.S. in October has fanned the flames of rivalry further. Amid this escalation, the U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping had their first in-person interaction on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali in November, signalling a probable relaxation of the growing tensions.

How did relations sour between U.S. and China?

The U.S. and China, ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in the later part of the Cold War, have worked toward enmeshing their economic systems from the perspective of economic complementarity and strategic convergence. As a result, China rose to the status of the second largest economy and got itself ingrained into the global economy. This eventually translated into China's growing economic competence as well as its rising political ambition and might. China then started to systematically undermine U.S. global dominance through military and diplomatic means. This happened at a time when there was a growing perception of U.S. decline amidst the global financial crisis and its entrenchment in the "forever wars" of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Under Xi Jinping, China's assertiveness rose further, as its quest for primacy in the world stage became increasingly apparent. With Donald Trump's entry into the White House, the U.S. concerns about the threat from China reached critical levels. The Trump administration took progressively confrontational steps towards China, with growing bipartisan backing. The administration's imposition of tariffs on China's exports turned into a "trade war" which started to reverse the trajectory of U.S.-China relations. Though Mr. Biden succeeded Mr. Trump, the policy on China did not change significantly, as the momentum for "decoupling" bilateral relations did not just continue, but kept on gathering pace. China's crackdown in Xinjiang and Hong Kong, its "wolf warrior diplomacy" during the COVID-19 blame game, its evident support to Russia during the Ukraine crisis, and its escalating offensive posturing towards Taiwan, made it imperative for the U.S. to continue with a confrontational posture towards China.

The year 2022 witnessed the relations descend into an abysmal trajectory with the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi visiting Taiwan. The visit was extremely significant in light of sabotaging the U.S.'s stated commitment to the One China Policy as well as bolstering its commitment towards the defence of Taiwan. China expressed its exasperation through large scale military drills seemingly aimed at blockading Taiwan and signalling the U.S. of its intent to respond in kind. China has been going on an overdrive to gain technological dominance in the fourth Industrial Revolution over the U.S. In order to undercut China's growing technological prowess, the U.S. imposed a series of restrictions on China targeting its semiconductor chip industry. With tensions reaching a peak, the G-20 summit held at Bali provided an opportunity for the leaders of both the countries to hit the pause button on the deterioration of ties.



Easing tensions: U.S. President Joe Biden with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali, Indonesia on November 14. REUTERS

What was discussed between the two leaders on the G-20 sidelines?

Mr. Biden and Mr. Xi discussed outstanding matters related to U.S.-China relations for nearly three hours at Bali. There was no joint statement released after the meeting, although both sides provided their own perspectives on issues of mutual concern. Easing tensions and reopening channels of communication were agreed upon by both the leaders. The U.S. President expressed that both the countries should "manage the competition responsibly and maintain open lines of communication", and that the U.S. is not looking for conflict with China. However, he said that the U.S. "will continue to compete vigorously" with China. Mr. Biden proposed promoting U.S.-China cooperation on the issues of climate change, global macroeconomic stability, as well as global health and food security. He also underlined the human rights concerns surrounding China's activities in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong.

On the other hand, the Chinese President stated that the relationship should not be seen by the U.S. through the prism of "democracy versus authoritarianism". Mr. Xi also re-emphasised Taiwan's position as being at "the very core of China's core interests" as well as the "the bedrock of the political foundation of China-U.S. relations", which the U.S. needs to respect. Meanwhile, Mr. Biden reiterated that the U.S.'s commitment to the One China Policy had not changed, and that it will oppose "any unilateral changes to the status quo by either side". This is despite Mr. Biden's several previous statements which contradicted this stance. Mr. Xi also noted the "five noes" previously mentioned by Mr. Biden – not seek a new Cold War; not seek to change China's system; not to revitalise its alliances against China; not to disturb the cross-Strait status quo; and not look for conflict with China. Mr. Xi stressed that both the countries needed to "explore the right way to get along".

What does the future hold?

The recent meeting between the two heads of states certainly imply that there is a move toward bringing in more stability into bilateral relations. However, to what extent could this move be aimed at taking the relations to where it was before the trade war remains questionable. For one, China has not moved away from its path to attain its long term goal of centrality in the international system. In fact, Xi Jinping has at multiple times underlined China's time bound aspiration to achieve such a goal through phased modernisation of the country. China's more specific objectives like the reunification of Taiwan with the mainland has been underscored by Mr. Xi most recently in November during the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, where he consolidated his exceptional third leadership term. Further, it has to be noted here that the "new era" of Xi Jinping is marked by China's efforts to project rather than conceal its capabilities.

On the other hand, the Biden administration has continued with intensifying the U.S.'s rivalry with China by expanding it beyond trade and into avenues like technology and political freedoms. It has also utilised multilateral approaches like strengthening the Quad in the Indo-Pacific, and the founding of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. However, the administration has coated these efforts with a veneer of moderation and accommodation to demonstrate some distinctiveness with the previous administration. For instance, the current U.S. administration's China policy outlined in May by the Secretary of State Antony Blinken identified China as the "most serious long-term challenge" to the international order. Nevertheless, it presented a three-pillar approach towards China – "invest, align, compete". This showcases the Biden administration's intent to deal with the threat posed by China without sliding into an inadvertent conflict.

Thus, the long-term trajectories of both countries do not seem to be poised for a reset; rather, both seem to be buying time and reducing unnecessary risks while the strategic rivalry unfolds.

Dr. Anand V. is an Assistant Professor (Senior Scale) at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (Karnataka) where Uday Nitin Patil is a Doctoral Candidate

THE GIST

U.S.-China relations have witnessed an unprecedented downturn in 2022. Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August and the imposition of heavy restrictions on China's semiconductor industry by the U.S. in October have fanned the flames of rivalry between the two nations.

Mr. Biden and Mr. Xi discussed outstanding matters related to U.S.-China relations for nearly three hours on the sidelines of the G-20 meeting in Bali. Easing tensions and reopening channels of communication were agreed upon by both the leaders.

While the meeting between the two heads of states certainly imply that there is a move toward bringing in more stability into bilateral relations, to what extent could this move be aimed at taking the relation to where it was before the trade war remains questionable.

Govt. of Karnataka

Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Vijayapur

Tel.No:08352-277816, Fax.No:08352-277817,
E-Mail:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in

NO:EE/PRED/VJP/E-Proc/TND/2022-23/2319 Dated:09.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

Tender called for the work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below.

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-3 through electronic Tendering system (e-tender from Class -1 Contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD/PRED/ who have got adequate financial resources, state of technology, suitable construction equipments technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below.

1. Package-1 VIJAYAPUR : 6 Works Rs 99.80 lakhs (KW-3)
2. Package-2 VIJAYAPUR : 3 Works Rs 83.40 lakhs (KW-3)
3. Package-3 VIJAYAPUR : 5 Works Rs 83.40 lakhs (KW-3)
4. Package-4 VIJAYAPUR : 5 Works Rs 83.40 lakhs (KW-3)
5. Package-5 VIJAYAPUR : 1 Works Rs 82.00 lakhs (KW-3)
6. Package-6 VIJAYAPUR : 4 Works Rs 83.40 lakhs (KW-3)
7. Package-7 VIJAYAPUR : 3 Works Rs 41.70 lakhs (KW-3)

Details in this regard are available on website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the above office during office hours

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/654/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. *www.isec.ac.in*

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Dated: 12th December 2022

Sealed tenders are invited for **waterproofing to the roofs of the staff quarters blocks, gents hostel building and library building at ISEC** from the reputed Bengaluru based contractors having adequate experience in such works. Interested agencies may collect the tender documents by paying Rs.1000/- by cash / DD / Pay Order of any scheduled bank drawn in favour of **"The Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru"**, from Estate Office at the above address. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **03rd January 2023** at 11:00 p.m. Last Date for submission of sealed tender: **16th January 2023.** Tenders will be opened on **23rd January 2023 at 11.00** a.m in the Committee Room. Interested Tenderers may be present while opening the tenders.

ISEC-22325 **Registrar**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management-1, Dasappa Hospital Building, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No: EE-3/SWM/TEND/04/2022-23/Call-2 Date: 13.12.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover Tender) 2nd Call

The Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management Division, invites bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of the materials /equipments detailed in the table below.

Name of the Work	Approx. Amount put to tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
Supply of Manually Push Operated 815 Nos Sweeping Machines.	330.07	4.95

Calendar of Events : 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of GOK from **15.12.2022**. (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders on **31.12.2022** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Last Date for Uploading Queries on **20.12.2022** upto **3:00** pm. (4) Pre-Bid Meeting on **21.12.2022** at **4:00** pm in the Office of the undersigned. (5) Date of Opening of Technical Bids on **02.01.2023** after **4:00** pm or Next Working day. (6) Opening of Financial Bids will be intimated to Technically Qualified Bidders. (7) Any Corrigendum/Adendum will be published in the e-portal only. (8) For details, registration and e-payment visit GOK e-procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk at 080-22441076 this tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP website **www.bbmp.gov.in.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: 605/EEE/MWD/AEE(O)/Haveri/2022-23/ 1622-30 Date: 13.12.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited is energizing Establishing 1X10MVA, 110/11KV Sub-station at Dhundsi (Adavi Somapura) in Shiggaon taluk, Haveri district and Construction of 110kV LILO line from Existing 110kV Ramanakoppa-Mundagod S/C line on DC towers to proposed 110kV S/s at Dhundsi (Adavi Somapura) for a distance of about 5.033Kms in Shiggaon taluk, Haveri district on or after **15.12.2022.** The above line is passing through the areas of Neeralagi, Timmapur and Adavi Somapur villages of Shiggaon Taluk.

The above said Transmission line will be energized on or after **15.12.2022.** The general public residing near the said newly constructed 110KV line and surrounding villages are requested to keep away from this power line towers, not to tie animals to the towers and not to throw green sticks, wires, tree branches etc., on the lines and not to climb the towers. If any body does these things, it will be most dangerous to their lives or to their animals. Public of the above villages are requested to take utmost care. KPTCL will not be responsible for any accidents due to the above mentioned causes.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele),
Major Works Division, Haveri Dist., KPTCL Haveri.

ಸುವರ್ಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ನಗರ ಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ–587103

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Website: www.bagalkotecity.gov.in Fax No: 235732, Help Line: 235792
E-mailID: itstaff_ulb_bagalkote@yahoo.co.in.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ: ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ರಾಜ್ಯ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: ನಸಬಾ/ಲೋ.ವಿ/**TND**/2022–23/1091 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–12–2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
E-Proceurement portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ
e-portal: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999, ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ 2022–23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಳ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ/ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **/ E-Procurement portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅಧಿಕೃತ **Standard Tender Documents Kw-1 /Kw-2/Kg-,Kc-1,Kc-2** ರಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT132430/Call-2
ಹೀಗೆ ರೂ : 63.00 ಲಕ್ಷದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

1) Last date for submission of bid through E. procurement portal before : **04-01-2023** At **16.30** hours.
2) Opening of Technical bid is on or after **: 06-01 -2023** at **11.30** AM

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/672/2022–23/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients are interested to purchase the Property which is morefully described in the schedule Property hereunder from its owners namely **Sri.Chandra Shekhar Babu,** aged about 50 years, S/o. **Narayan Rao. C.S, Smt. Sundra Bai**, aged about 46 years, W/o. Chandra Shekhar Babu, **Sri.Nagendra.C,** aged about 24 years, S/o. Chandra Shekhar Babu, **Sri.Sravan.C**, aged about 20 years, S/o. Chandra Shekhar Babu, All are Residing at, M.G.Road, Behind Lakshman Complex, Manchenahalli, Gauribidnur, Chikkaballapur - 561211.

Any person/s having claim, title or interest over the schedule property or any objection to the proposed purchase, may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents to the undersigned **within 07 days** from the date of this publication, failing which my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy.No.15/1B (Old Sy.No.15), measuring 3 Guntas, situated at Lingashettipura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapur Taluk and bounded on;
East by : Property bearing Sy.No.15/1A;
West by : Property bearing Sy.No.14/5;
North by : Naduvanahalli Village boundary;
South by : Remaining portion in same survey number.

Sd/-
S. NAGA THRIJALA, M.B.A., L.L.B, ADVOCATE,
#98, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross,
1st A Main Road, Gururaja Layout,
Vibhutipura Extention, Doddankundi,
Bengaluru – 560037, +91-9440971415.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients are interested to purchase the Property which is morefully described in the schedule Property hereunder from its owner namely **Sri. Manjunatha @ Manjunatha. A,** aged about 49 Years, S/o.Venkatakrishnappa, Residing at, # 41, Lingasettipura, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka - 562101.

Any person/s having claim, title or interest over the schedule property or any objection to the proposed purchase, may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents to the undersigned **within 07 days** from the date of this publication, failing which my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.14/5 (Old Sy.No.14/2), measuring 1 Acre, situated at Lingashettipura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapur Taluk and bounded on;
East by : Property bearing Sy.No.15/1B;
West by : Property bearing Sy.No.14/1;
North by : Naduvanahalli Village boundary;
South by : Property bearing Sy.No.14/2.

Sd/-
S. NAGA THRIJALA, M.B.A., L.L.B, ADVOCATE,
#98, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross,
1st A Main Road, Gururaja Layout,
Vibhutipura Extention, Doddankundi,
Bengaluru – 560037, +91-9440971415.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer 3, Solid Waste Management-1, Dasappa Hospital Building, Bengaluru-560002

No: EE-3/SWM/TEND/01-2/2022-23 CALL-2 Date: 13.12.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)-2nd Call

SHORT TERM-TWO COVER TENDER (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

The Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management Division, invites bids on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, BBMP from eligible bidders for the supply of the materials/equipment's detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approximate Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	**Package-2:** Supply of Conservancy material (Bleaching powder) for Pourakarmika's working in 8 zones of BBMP limits	70.10	1.41

Cost of Bid Document : As per e- procurement portal
Contract Completion on period : 1 Month.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender document may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **15.12.2022**. **(2)** Last date for receipt of Tenders on **31.12.2022** upto **4.00 p.m. (3)** Last date for uploading queries on **20.12.2022** upto **3.00 p.m. (4)** Pre-bid meeting on **21.12.2022** at **4.00 p.m.** at office of under signed. **(5)** Date of Opening of technical bids on the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** will be on **02.01.2023** after **4.00 p.m**. or next working day. **(6)** Opening of financial bids will be intimated to technically qualified bidders. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka. gov.in.**

Sd/- The Executive Engineer 3, Solid Waste Management-1

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MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O&M Circle Office, Chikkamagalur. Ph: 08262 - 233313
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No.MESCOM/SEE/Q&MCKM/EE/AEE/AE/2022-23/12224 Date: 01.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

MESCOM, invites the tenders for the work formation of new 11 kV feeder from 110/11KV Emmedoddi MUSSS to Muslapura to reduce the overload of existing F-12 Rangenahalli feeder in Kadur rural section, Kadur sub division, Kadur Division on "Total Turnkey Basis" (General)

The bids will be received through Electronic (E-Tendering) mode only. The details of tender notification can be obtained by logging on to **https://www. eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.12.2022.** Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.), O&M Circle, MESCOM, Chikkamagalur

For Power Related Complaint & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through e-procurement portal)

No. BESCOM/CGM(Proj)/DGM-I/AGM/BC-14/22-23/4862 Date: 13-12-2022

BESCOM re-invites Tenders for **Providing electrical infrastructure to regularized Un-authorized IP sets by extending 11 KV lines, erection of 25 KVA Star-1 (4 star) rated Distribution Transformers and extension of LT line 3 phase 4 wire on Total Turnkey basis on PERCENTAGE QUOTING BASIS – Re-inviting of tender.**

Enquiry No : BESCOM/CGM(P)/UNIP/BC-14/CHA/22-23/TTK-02/Call-2. Name of the Sub Division : Channagiri

Availability of Bid documents : 15.12.2022 at 15:00 Hrs onwards. **Last date for bid submission :** 22.12.2022 at 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids :** 23.12.2022 at 15:00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting :** 19.12.2022 at 11:30 Hrs. **Last date for submission of Queries :** 19.12.2022 before 11:00 Hrs. **Pre bid meeting Venue :** Office of Chief General Manager, Projects, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R Circle, Bangalore-560 001.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal from the website **http://www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: +91-8046010000 +91-8022631200 E-mail: support@ihelpdsk.com** Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.) Projects, BESCOM
Ph.: 9449844885 E mail: cgmproject.bescom@gmail.com

For electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works.

I No.: SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AE(T)/F-38/22-23/4009-11 Date: 12.12.2022

Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/ERECTION OF 220kV BREAKER/EE(O)/AE(T)/22-23/EPR-355, Dated: 08.12.2022** for the work of "Replacement of 220kV Mylasandra-3 line Circuit breakers at 220/66/11kV Receving Station Yerrandanahalli on **Partial Turnkey Basis**".

II No.: SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AE(T)/F-38/22-23/4012-14 Date: 12.12.2022

Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/Erection of 11kV SWGS and Associated works/EE(O)/AE(T)/22-23/EPR-354, Dated:02.12.2022** in Combined Package of the following works on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

Work 1 - Associated works with respect to commissioning of 11kV MCVCB panels of MEI make at 220/66/11kV Receiving station Sarjapura coming under TL&SS Division, Yerrandanahalli.

Work 2 - Replacement of deteriorated 11kV annunciator Panel and individual 11kV annunciator units by new simplex panels at 66/11kV Sub-station Attibele.

Work 3 - Providing 1No. of 11kV Bus Coupler for connecting bank-1A and Transformer-2 at 66/11kV Sub-station Anekal.

Work 4 - Providing 1No. of 11kV Bus Coupler and adopter panel for coupling of 11kV Bank-1 and Bank-2 at 66/11kV Sub-station Jigani.

Work 5 - Providing 1No. of 11kV Bus Coupler MCVCB for connecting Bank-2A and 3A at 220/66/11kV Receiving Station Yerrandanahalli.

III No.: SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-32/22-23/4019-21 Date: 13.12.2022

Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-2/Erection of 11kV SWG/EPR-338/CALL-2 Dtd:12.12.2022** in Combined Package for the following works on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

Work 1 - Providing additional one number of 11kV, 25kA, 1250A, MCVCB feeder panel for load bifurcation of 11kV feeders at 66/11kV Sub-station, Maralawadi in TL&SS Division, Kanakapura as per request of BESCOM.

Work 2 - Providing additional one number of 11kV, 31.5kA, 1600A, MCVCB feeder panel for load bifurcation of 11kV feeders at 66/11kV Sub-station, Kanakapura in TL&SS Division, Kanakapura as per request of BESCOM.

Work 3 - Providing additional one number of 11kV, 25kA, 1250A, MCVCB feeder panel for load bifurcation of 11kV feeders at 66/11kV Sub-station, Hanumanthanagara in TL&SS Division, Kanakapura as per request of BESCOM.

Work 4 - Providing additional one number of 11kV, 25kA, 1250A, MCVCB feeder panel for load bifurcation of 11kV feeders at 66/11kV Sub-station, Achchalu in TL&SS Division, Kanakapura as per request of BESCOM.

The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on or after **14.12.2022** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link **'e-procurement– KPTCL'** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (Maintenance), KPTCL, Ramanagara Circle, 220/66/11KV Vrushabhavati Valley Station, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560 026. Telephone: **080-29620155.**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

30/1, 1st & 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 051. Phone No: 080-43790743

No: CGM(TECH)/BSWML/TEND/06/2022-23 Date: 13.12.2022

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

1. The Chief General Manager (Tech), on behalf of Managing Director, BSWML, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in under login for Contractors: After login to Contractors, please scroll down to the right-side bottom to see List of Tenders, please click there to find the details of RFP and download copy of the tender. The tender document can be downloaded in the portal from 15-12-2022. Only Interested Service Provider who wishes to participate should remit online transaction fee for tender after registering in the portal. The transaction fee is non-refundable.
3. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours on 31-12-2022 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract Period
1.	Establishment of 200 TPD Coconut processing unit which comprises of shredding, squeezing screening, pulverizing and pelleting to produce 3 products - organic liquid, cocopeat and pellets in 1 acre of land at the Waste Tech Park proposed in Lakkasandra and Upgradation of RDF shed to 50 ton Semi Automated material recovery facility in 3 existing processing plants of BBMP.	870.00	13.05	As per e-Portal	09 Months
2.	Fencing of SWM infrastructure assets in required places in BBMP limits.	416.00	6.25	As per e-Portal	09 Months
3.	Developments and Construction of Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCC) and Transit points in ward no: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33, 34 and 46 of Hebbal assembly constituency.	402.00	6.03	As per e-Portal	09 Months

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on 21-12-2022 at 15:00 hours in office of the Chief General Manager (Tech) BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Buidling, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru-560052.
2. Technical qualification documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours on 31-12-2022 and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be opened through e-portal only on 02-01-2023 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderer's responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. E-procurement portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e-procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portal only.
5. GST shall be paid separately if applicable.

Time Schedule/Calendar of Events: (1) Last Date & Time for uploading Qualification Documents on **31.12.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs. (2)** Pre Bid Meeting on **21.12.2022 at 15.00 Hrs**. **(3)** Opening of Tender on **02.01.2023 at 16.30 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML

DIPR/CP/AAA/3506/2022-23

Govt of Karnataka

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D DIVISION SEDAM

No. EE/PWD/Dvn/Sed/TS- 1&2/2022-23/3120 Date :12-12-2022

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Details of Works: 1. Total no of work 07 in Sedam taluka Indent No's are as follows: Under Social Welfare Dept -155259/CALL-2, 3054-manitenance- 157075/CALL-2(ST), 156937/CALL-2 (ST), 156945/CALL-2 (ST), K.K.R.D.B- 160766, 158591 and 157157. 2. Total no of work 06 in Chittapur taluka Indent No's are as follows: Under K.K.R.D.B- 162350, 162105, 162104, 162082, 162081, and 162368. 3. Total no of work 05 in Chincholi taluka Indent No's are as follows: Under K.K.R.D.B- 162264, 162265, 162266, 162267 & 162268. 2) Head of Account: Under K.K.R.D.B For the year 2020-21 & 2022-23, 8443- Social Welfare Dept. & 3054- Maintenance Works For the year 2022-23, 3) Amount Put to Tender : **Lowest Estimate Cost Rs. 0.91 Lakhs, Highest Estimate Cost Rs. 220.00 Lakhs**, 4) Legibility of Contractor : Class-4 contractor & Above, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting Date : **26-12-2022 - 11:30:00 Hrs**, 6) Last date & time for Tender Queries & receipt of tenders: **28-12-2022 - 17:30:00 Hrs,** 7) Tender Form Fee & EMD Amount: Tender processing fee & EMD As per e-portal, 8) Last date & time for receipt of tenders : **29-12-2022 - 16:00:00 Hrs**, 9) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **30-12-2022 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 10) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid: **31-12-2022 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 11) Communication Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam, 12) Internet Address: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in, 13) If any changes for Cancelation : Any Changes and cancelations are done in **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/951/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division Sedam

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: 08537-275463, 276339 , 275054
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.co.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 47/22-23 Dt: 14.12.2022

(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited by "The Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the procurement of following items from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers as detailed below.

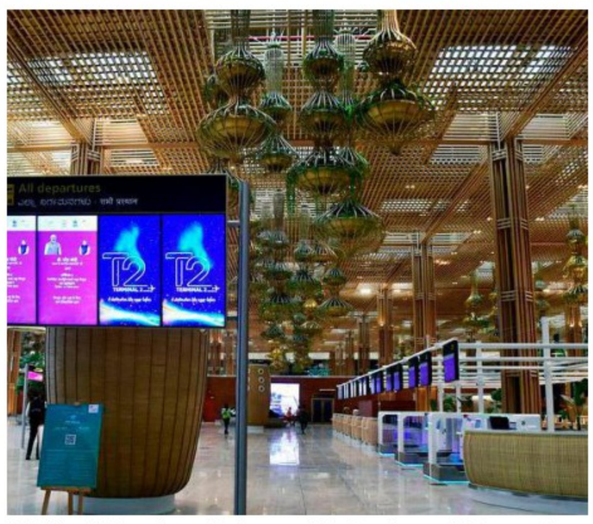
Sl. No.	Description	Approx. Value (Rs. in Lakhs.)	EMD in Rs.
1	Supply of assorted size tyres. **HGML/2022-23/IND3400**	18.62	46,500/-
2	Supply of ultrasonic slurry density meter. **HGML/2022-23/IND3356/CALL-3**	30.00	75,000/-
3	Construction of Parking shed for 2 wheeler and 4wheeler near main office.**HGML/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT385/CALL-2**	39.64	39,600/-
4	Supply of 160 KW motor. **HGML/2022-23/IND3365/CALL-3**	6.50	16,500/-
5	Supply of LDD & SDD 3 mtr. **HGML/2022-23/IND3462**	106.50	1,60,000/-
6	Supply of 1.1KV grade double armoured PVC copper cable.**HGML/2021-22/IND3269/CALL-2**	160.98	2,40,000/-
7	Supply of ophthalmic OT microscope with table and chair. **HGML/2022-23/IND3428/CALL-2**	15.00	37,500/-

Calendar of events: **(1)** Pre-bid meeting (Zoom): **20.12.2022 for Sl.No. 5 at 10.30 A.M. Sl.No. 6 at 11.00 A.M. (2)** Last date for receipt of tender: **28.12.2022 at 4.00 P.M. (3)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **02.01.2023 at 10.00 A.M.** For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in e-procurement portal.

Sd/- Dy. General Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

KIA Terminal-2 can now be experienced on the metaverse



Built in collaboration with Amazon Web Services and Polygon, the BLR Metaport offers an immersive, three-dimensional virtual experience of the newly launched terminal. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) Terminal-2 has become one of the first terminals in the world that can be experienced on the metaverse, after Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), operator of the KIA, on Tuesday announced the first phase launch of the BLR Metaport.

Built in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Polygon, the BLR Metaport offers an immersive, three-dimensional (3D) virtual experience of the newly launched terminal.

Interested travellers and members of the public can log on to www.blrmetaport.com and virtually tour and navigate the new terminal using their smart devices.

The BLR Metaport is an outcome of the Joint Innovation Centre (JIC), announced in April 2022 by BIAL, AWS, and Intel. The JIC focuses on driving the development and adoption of digital solutions in aviation.

"For BIAL, the mission of the JIC is to leverage emerging technologies to build new business models and passenger experiences and be at the forefront of technology innovation in India's commercial aviation," BIAL added.

Developed in line with this mission, the BLR Metaport is one of the first airport metaverse experiences, designed to deliver an enhanced digital experience.

A 3D interface will offer customers new ways to interact with the airport, such as checking into flights, navigating terminals, shopping, and social aspects like connecting with other travellers.

BLR Metaport brings the virtual and physical worlds together to provide consistent engagement, and aims to excite travellers with new, unique, and immersive experiences.

BIAL's Chief Strategy and Development Officer, Satyaki Raghunath said, "We are very excited that BIAL is entering into the new world of metaverse through the BLR Metaport. This is our first foray into the world of Web3 and non-fungible tokens (NFTs), and we aim to delight travellers with a unique, immersive, and virtual experience. We believe that it is important to connect with a new generation of our global audience through the metaverse. We also have several initiatives planned around the BLR Metaport, which promise to increase ways in which we can engage with our global audience and enhance business impact over the next few years."

City's auto and cab drivers oppose govt. move to allow e-bike taxis

Even before the Transport Department officially came out with a policy, illegal bike taxis were operational in Bengaluru, and the recent incident of alleged sexual abuse of a woman passenger by a bike rider and his associate exposed how unsafe bike taxis are, says autorickshaw union president

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Transport Department's move to allow e-bike taxi operations in the city has not gone down well with auto and taxi drivers. They see e-bike taxi business as a threat that will eat into their revenue.

Sources in the Transport Department said that an applicant who had applied for a licence was found eligible to run taxi services under the Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme. The scheme was introduced in 2021, primarily aiming at first and last-mile connectivity from metro stations, bus stands, and short-distance travel. In January, the department fixed ₹25 for the first 5 km and ₹50 from 5 km to 10 km for e-bike taxis.

Even before the scheme was introduced, several taxi aggregators had already introduced bike taxi services by attaching white-board bikes (vehicles used for private purposes). Auto and taxi drivers had vehemently opposed such operations and protested against the inaction of the Transport Department. There were instances of the department impounding vehicles and penalising those who attached the vehicles with the aggregators.

Auto and taxi drivers see e-bike taxi business as a threat that will eat into their revenue. K. MURALI KUMAR

Sreenivas C.N., president of Autorickshaw Drivers' Union affiliated to CITU, said, "Even before the department officially came out with a policy, illegal bike taxis were operational in the city. The recent incident of the alleged sexual abuse of a woman passenger by the bike rider and his associate exposed how unsafe bike taxis are. It is unfortunate that such illegal businesses are allowed to run under the nose of the department. Now, the department is in the process of issuing a formal licence to run e-bike taxis. The move will go against the interest of auto and taxi drivers in the city as their revenue will be hit. It is a State sponsored scheme to put drivers into financial distress."

Mr. Sreenivas added that in the city, there are 1.75 to 2 lakh autos plying on the city roads and lakh of families are dependent on the auto business. He also warned of protesting against the department, if it goes ahead with the plan of issuing licences.

"Taxi drivers are already suffering a lot as taxi aggregators are not following the rules on fares fixed by the government. Drivers are forced to part with hefty commissions to get the bookings. As if this problem is not enough, the department is going to issue licences for e-bike taxis. The move will harm thousands of taxi drivers in the city who have invested in lakhs to run taxis," said Suresh N., general secretary, Bangalore District Taxi Drivers' Union.

Transport Commissioner S.N. Siddaramappa told *The Hindu* that the process is on to issue the licence only for e-bike taxis. "There were four to five applications received, but we will issue a licence for only e-bike taxis if the applicants meet the criteria. Two operators are likely to meet the set guidelines to run the e-bike taxis. No licence has been issued yet."

Four killed in separate accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three labourers were killed when a goods vehicle ran over them on Attibele main road on Monday night. The deceased have been identified as Chandan Das, 23, Ashiq, 20, and Karan, 20, from Assam. They were working as labourers for a construction company.

They were returning home from work in Mayasandra, when the accident occurred. Due to the impact, the trio were dragged for few metres away on the road and the front portion of the vehicle was damaged and a few parts were scattered around. The driver sped away.

Passers-by noticed the accident and informed the police.

In another accident, a 30-year-old factory employee was killed after he lost control over his motorcycle and came under the wheels of a moving BMTC bus in Peenya on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Deepak, a native of Varanasi. He was working as a operator in a factory and returning home from work.

The Peenya traffic police have detained the driver and seized the bus for further investigation.

BBMP starts revamp of iconic food street at V.V. Puram

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike(BBMP) held a groundbreaking ceremony on December 13 for the remodelling and redevelopment of the iconic V.V. Puram food street (thindi beedi) in Bengaluru.

Uday B. Garudachar, MLA of Chickpet, along with BBMP officials, conducted a pooja to start the work of revamping the 200-metre stretch with a focus on pedestrians.

The street is situated between Sajjan Rao Circle and Minerva Circle in V.V. Puram, and is lined with eateries and carts dishing out an array of delicious specialties from Karnataka as well as snacks from across India.

According to BBMP officials, the stretch is crowded, especially after 6 p.m., leading to heavy traffic snarls. There is also a lack of modern amenities. "A place to eat, meet and celebrate, there are over 37 food stalls in a stretch of less than 200 metres. BBMP plans to transform this street with a focus on pedestrians," a BBMP official said.

A file photo of thindi beedi (food street), V.V. Puram in Bengaluru.

BBMP will upgrade the infrastructure at a cost of around ₹6 crore with shared streets designed to provide pedestrians the right-of way, according to Palike officials.

"Designs are based on local context and culture, and the materials, and space allocation indicate that vehicles are guests," said Jayaram Raipura, Commissioner of BBMP South zone.

Six BMTC staff suspended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has suspended six officials and employees on the charges of corruption and receiving bribes from drivers and conductors.

Sources in the BMTC said that the suspended officials were allegedly receiving money from the drivers and the conductors for assigning routes, buses, granting leaves, and other reasons.

The action has been initiated following investigation by the security and vigilance cell of the corporation, according to the sources.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I ANUPAMA Ananthaswamy D/O Ananthaswamy Sadashiva Rao, born on 15/05/1957, residing at Anurag, 502 6th Main 9 th Cross Mico Lay Out BTM 2 nd Stage, have changed my name to Anupama Swamy vide affidavit dated 08/12/2022, at Bangalore

I, SUDHEER Nambolan, S/o Kunhambu Nhaliyil, R/a NO.003, First Floor, SV Manor Apt, B Channasandra Main Road, Opp Baskin Robbin, Kasthuri Nagar, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Sudhir.N, vide affidavit dt: 07.12.2022 sworn before Notary B.Seshagiri, Blr.

I, P.PARIMALA Pazhanivel, wife of Pazhanivel.R. served in Army with No Ex 13986031X, Rank Ex Naik, residing at No.2, 42/2, 4th 'F' Cross, Anandapur, T.C. Palaya Main Road, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560036, I state my date of birth is 15.4.1973, I have changed my name P.Parimala Pazhanivel to Parimala before notary Thangaraj .S. hereinafter I will be called as Parimala and my Date of birth is 15.4.1973 for all purpose.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT MAYO HALL 74th ACCJ, BANGALORE (CCH-75)
O.S. No. 25030 of 2022
Plaintiff
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its Regd. Off at Mytree Centre, No.4, 101 Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068.
Reptd. by its Debt Collection Manager: Sri. Pramodh. G, S/o. Gurumallappa. B
Defendant :
Mrs. Prashanthi Krupa
Pidakala, S/o. Sri. Subhakara Rao Pidakala Aged about 35 years, Residing at No. 116, Building No. 37, Muneshwara Layout, Old Mangamma Palya, Madiwala, Near ITI Layout, Bangalore - 560 068.
WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of Directing the defendant to pay a sum of Rs. 5,29,269/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Nine Only) together with future interest at 12.99% p.a. you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the 30th day of January, 2023 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on 13/10/2022.
By order of the Court
Dy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit, Bangalore
ALTA HASAN,
Advocate for Plaintiff,
60, G-3, M.M.Complex,
Tasker Town, Chikka Bazaar Road, Shivajinagar,
Bangalore- 560051.

Goverment of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri
Email:eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel No. 08375-232454
No.EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-2/Tender/2022-23/4872 Dated: 03-12-2022
E-procurement Short Time Tender Notification No.39/2022-23

The Panchayat Raj Engineering Department through Executive Engineer Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Haveri on behalf of Governor of Karnataka invites the E-Protal Tender as per KW-4 from the eligible and approved contractors registered with P.W.D registered for e-Procurement for each of the following works All head of account work as follows. Details can also be obtained in www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.
1) Construction of Backward Classes Welfare Department Post Metric Girls Hostel Savanur Town **(INDENT96665)**, **2)** Renovation & Construction of Govt. Majjid PUC College Savanur Town in Savanur Taluk**(INDENT97241)**.
1) Last date for uploading completed tender form And documents e-procurement documents through online: **19-12-2022 upto 4.00 PM**,
2) Date of Technical bid opening (if possible): **20-12-2022 @ 5.00 PM**,
3) Date of Financial bid Opening(if possible): **26-12-2022 @ 11.00 AM**.
More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through our website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. workslist.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Haveri
DIPR/HAVERI/429/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Shivamogga–Bhadravathi
Urban Development Authority,
Commercial Complex, 100 feet road, Vinobanagar, Shivamogga.
Phone: 08182-249867, 249280
No.: SBUDA/T/J.E./Tender/10/2022-23 Date: 12.12.2022
e-Procurement Tender Notice

Itemwar Tenders are invited by the undersigned, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rules 2000, subject to conditions of Standard Tender Document K.W.-1 and 2 Sections from eligible civil contractors of PWD registered in e-procurement portal. Eligible contractors can participate in the Tender for the below mentioned work through e-procurement portal http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Details of the Work put to Tender

FUND-1 General Administration and Master Plan

Sl.No. 1. Name of the Work: Works of Repairs to Roof, Bore Well and Drinking Water Tank of Residential Quarters of D-Group Employees of the Authority in E-Block of Gopalagowda Layout in Shivamogga City. **Indent No.:** 224 **Amount put to Tender (in Rs.):** 2,35,490.00 **E.M.D. Amount (in Rs.):** 5,900.00 **Standard Tender bid Document:** KW-1 **Period for completion of Work:** 3 Months excluding Rainy Season

Sl.No. 2. Name of the Work: Work of Installation of Name Boards and Fencing to Civic Amenity Sites under the ownership of the Authority. **Indent No.:** 225 **Amount put to Tender (in Rs.):** 21,01,007.00 **E.M.D. Amount (in Rs.):** 42,100.00 **Standard Tender bid Document:** KW-2 **Period for completion of Work:** 4 Months excluding Rainy Season

FUND-V Development Fund-2

Sl.No. 3. Name of the Work: Work of installation of Stone Benches at the Park and public places in the limits of Local Project area of Shivamogga – Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority. **Indent No.:** 230 **Amount put to Tender (in Rs.):** 16,92,000.00 **E.M.D. Amount (in Rs.):** 42,300.00 **Standard Tender bid Document:** KW-1 **Period for completion of Work:** 4 Months excluding Rainy Season

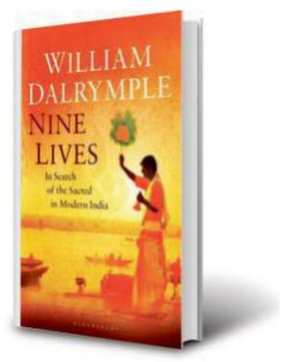
Tender Schedule dates in e-procurement system are as below. If any of the below mentioned dates are declared as holidays, then the next working day of the office will be considered

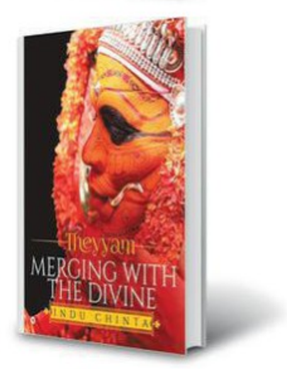
1. Last date for tender Queries/Clarifications:22-12-2022 Up to 17.00 hrs **2**. Last date for receipt of tender: 27-12-2022 Up to 17.00 hrs **3**. Date of opening of Technical bid: 29-12-2022 at 11.00 hrs **4**. Date of opening of Financial bid: 31-12-2022 at 11.00 hrs

For further information regarding e-procurement contact e-procurement Help Desk No. 080-25501216.

Sd/- (Kotresh. H. K.A.S.) **Sd/- (N.G. Nagaraj)**
Commissioner, **Chairman,**
Shivamogga – Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority, Shivamogga.
DIPR/smg/No.86/12/mca/22-23/1447

BIBLIOGRAPHY





A still from *Kantara*.

The enigma of mythical stories and intense art and dance forms

Kannada film *Kantara* gives enough reason to be drawn to books on traditional Indian folklore in order to understand the mystic of the other gods amidst us. It has put the focus back on native cultures such as the Yakshagana, Daivaradhane, Kambala or Theyyam

Soma Basu

Books and films rooted in Indian culture capture the imagination. There is no better example than the recent success of Kannada film *Kantara* that has brought the worship of a tutelary deity in the spotlight. It showcases the annual festival of Bhoota Kola, a spirit worship ritual dance of the Tulu-speaking people of Udipi and Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka. With minor variations, the dance form is popular as Theyyam as it crosses over to Kannur and Kasargod in north Malabar, Kerala.

It is believed that the trained persons who perform the ritual go into a trance and transform themselves temporarily into gods to protect the village from calamities. The essence, beauty and perspective of the ancient ritualistic exercise rides on faith and contemporary stories that flit through past, present and future. It is suitably aided by folk and classical music, stylised dance and drums, elaborate costumes and visual exaggeration, realism and fantasy. As art is used to give expression to culture through tales of myths, legends and superstition, it also provides the rationale for religious beliefs and practices. *Kantara*'s pan-India popularity underlines how a colourful, expressive and powerful form of storytelling can engage people with the sacred in a changing India. It has put the focus back on native cultures such as the Yakshagana, Daivaradhane, Kambala or Theyyam.

However, there are very few books available in English on Indian folklore.

Magical, egalitarian stories

It was in 2009 that William Dalrymple distilled his 25 years of travel within the country with an enchanting book, *Nine Lives: In Search of the Sacred in Modern India*. It is a mesmerising piece of work that gives an insight into nine different types of religious devotion. The author evocatively portrays people who face the challenge of holding on to the legacy of traditions. He writes about a Jain nun in the ancient pilgrimage town of Sravanabelagola; devadasi Rani Bai from Belgaum; Baul singers Kanai Das and Debdas Baul from Bengal; Rajasthani hereditary singers of epics, Mohan Bhopa and Batasi; the tantric traditions of Manisha Ma Bhairavi in the holy town of Tarapith. Significantly, Darlymple's book contains the powerful story of Hari Das, a popular Theyyam dancer of Kannur, who divides his time between jobs as a manual labourer during the week and a prison warden during weekends for nine months a year. For the remaining three months, from December to February, he turns into a dancer possessed by gods. It is his calling as an incarnate deity that makes Hari Das incorporate the physically demanding martial art form into his training as a dancer besides the intense mental, physical, and spiritual preparations before the performance. Dalrymple details the strict code of conduct for performers, including celibacy and abstinence from alcohol and non-vegetarian food for 41 days before a performance to purify themselves for the 'consecration of the deity within their body'. He writes that Theyyam finds its origins not just in the worship of ancestors and forest spirits, but also in a polarised society which once allowed only higher castes to enter temples and compelled people of the lower castes to employ other means to engage with their gods; it created an egalitarian space for the oppressed. They discovered a powerful voice to narrate to their feudal persecutors' stories of injustice and exploitation. The transformation from man to god initiated a dramatic status reversal within prevailing social hierarchies.

Kantara's pan-India popularity underlines how an expressive and powerful form of storytelling can engage people with the sacred in a changing India

The exclusiveness of other dance forms such as Therukoothu, a Tamil street theatre form, and Kalayaripattu, one of the oldest surviving Indian martial art forms from Kerala, also transport people into the magical world of artists, who put their heart and soul into their performances. Though Kalarippayattu got a lease of life in movies, there are not many books to be found in English about these art forms other than the University of Durban's 1992 publication *Therukoothu: A Traditional South Indian Dance Drama Form as Manifest in Natal Since 1860* by Sathasivan Annamalai and *Kalarippayattu: The Complete Guide to Kerala's Ancient Martial Art* by Chirakkal Sreedharan T. Nair written in 2016.

The pull of Theyyam

In comparison, Theyyam finds more references. *Theyyam The Other Gods* by Bhawani Cheerath-Rajagopalan and Rajesh Komath takes the reader through history, legends, performers, locations and different types of the dance form. *In God's Mirror; the Theyyams of Malabar*, Pepita Seth talks about the synthesis of tribal, Dravidian and Aryan cultural practices and how the communities draw strength from the protection of the Theyyams. The Kannur University publication (2012) *Theyyam: Patronage Appropriation and Interpolation* by Mannarakkal Dasan, and Kerala Bhasha Institute publication *Theyyam* by Dr. Vishnu Nambutiri (2015) are important works that pay respect to obscure people whose lives are made vivid by eloquent piety and devotion. Furthermore, *Theyyam: Merging with the Divine* by Chinta Indu (2018) and *The World of Theyyam: A study on Theyyam, The ritual art form of North Kerala* by Dr. R. C. Karippath (2019) unfold the unique and colourful culture of Malabar through its mythical stories and celebrate the tales of extraordinary individual devotion.

Words may be inadequate to describe the visual grandeur and phenomenon of Theyyam. The ecstatic god-dance conveys the beauty of an ancient society that have held communities and generations together. It is important to read about them to be sympathetic to a cultural milieu that places everybody on par.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

World Monkey Day is observed on December 14, to celebrate monkeys, including other non-human primates such as apes, tarsiers, and lemurs. Here is a quiz on the animal, and its day

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Which order of the hierarchical taxonomic rank does the monkey belong to? What are monkeys collectively also known as?

QUESTION 2
What is the collective noun for baboons? There is a species of virus that infects baboons. What is it called?

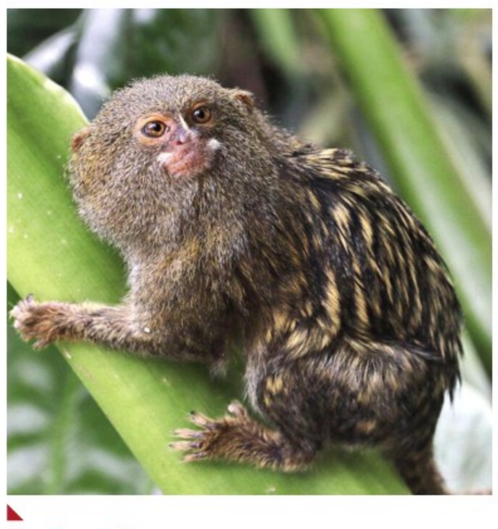
QUESTION 3
There are three species of primates that are called strepsirrhine primates. Which are they?

QUESTION 4
This is a macaque species native to the Atlas Mountains of Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Morocco, along with a small introduced population in Gibraltar. The name refers to the coastal regions of North Africa. Name the species.

QUESTION 5
These monkeys are nocturnal and found across South America. They are classified by the IUCN as an Endangered species. It has characteristic black and white markings on the face. Name the species.

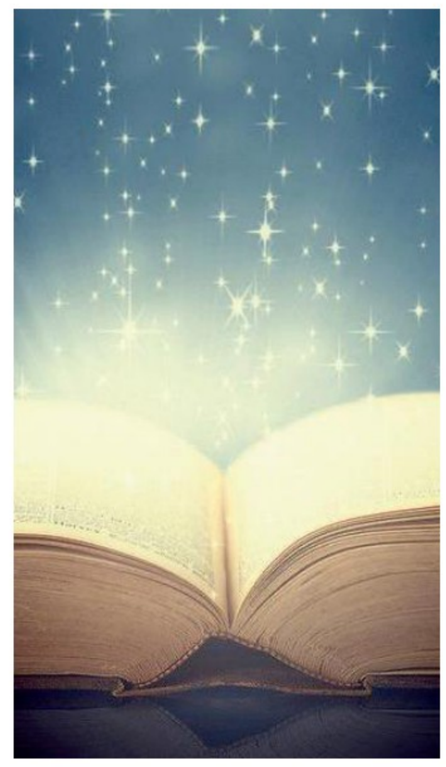
QUESTION 6
This jungle monkey is a fictional character with bird-like feathered wings. What are they called? In which novel are they found?

QUESTION 7
This monkey species is consumed by humans in Mexico. They have disproportionately long limbs and long prehensile tails. Identify the species.



Visual question:
Identify this monkey from the picture. What are they known for?

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In this assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu, in 1996, 1,033 candidates contested for the seat. **Ans: Modakurichi. The farmers of the constituency had several demands which were not met. Many contested as candidates as a form of protest**
2. In a byelection in this constituency of Maharashtra, the NOTA vote share reached an all-time high. **Ans: Andheri East**
3. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, this constituency registered the lowest voter turnout. **Ans: Ananthnag**
4. This constituency registered the highest turnout in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. **Ans: Dhubri, Assam**
5. This constituency in India has the lowest number of electors. **Ans: Lakshadweep**
Visual: Sokela Tayang is the only registered voter in a booth in this Assembly constituency. **Ans: Hayuliang**
Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| Bijo Paul| Raibandi Ashwin Ratna| Abhigya Singh



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."
"Good morning."
"Sir, Mr. Viswanathan of Coimbatore wants to know the difference between 'He must have gone there' and 'He should have gone there'."
" 'He must have gone there' means that it can be inferred or concluded that he went there.
He must have done it.
He must have arrived by now.
From what you say, he must have had a bad reception.
This must have happened several years ago.
You must have felt awful when you heard the news.
When you arrive at some conclusion on the basis of the knowledge you have of a situation, you use the structure 'must + have + past participle'. For example, you ask someone to arrange your books. You know that it would take about two hours. You go out to meet a friend of yours. After about two hours you tell your friend: 'Let me go now. The books must have been arranged by now'.
'He should have gone there' means that he did not go there but the speaker feels that it was his duty to go there. 'He should have come at 8 o'clock' means that he did not come at 8 o'clock.
He should have finished his work yesterday.
I should have gone yesterday.
They should have taken the initiative.
I should have met him yesterday."
"Mr. K. Sekhar of Madras wants to know the meaning of 'Parliament adjourned *sine die*, sir."
"It means that Parliament adjourned without specifying when it would meet again. 'Sine' in Latin means without and 'die' in Latin means day. When the adjournment is indefinite, we use the expression 'sine die'.
The meeting was adjourned sine die.
It is pronounced 'saini daiee'. 'Sine' rhymes with 'tiny'. The word 'die' is pronounced 'daiee' that is 'dai' + 'ee' as in feel: 'die' rhymes with lie' and 'buy'. Sine die is pronounced 'saini daiee'. I hope I have made myself clear."
"Mr. T. Keshavadas of Vadakkanthara wants to know the meaning of 'pen pal', sir."
" 'Pen pal' means 'pen friend'. 'Pen pal' or 'pen friend' is one with whom you exchange letters. He/she may be within the country or outside the country. He/she is called a 'pen pal' because your knowledge of him/her is only through correspondence. 'Pal' means intimate friend. It is used colloquially. Let's stop here for the day. Goodbye."
"Thank you, sir. Goodbye".

Word of the day

Tutelary:
providing protective supervision; watching over or safeguarding

Synonyms: custodial

Usage:
Even though she's miles away, I have always felt her tutelary presence guiding me.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/tutelarypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈtjuːtɪlərɪ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Zika: State intensifies vector-control and source-reduction measures

A three-member central team has arrived in Raichur to investigate and assist the State in preventing further spread

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the detection of the first case of Zika virus in Karnataka, the Health Department has intensified containment measures to prevent its further spread. On Monday, a three-member central team visited Koli Camp in Raichur district where the first case was detected. The team will investigate and recommend measures to check further spread during its three-day visit.

Meanwhile, the five-year-old girl has recovered.

Zika is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Samples collected from her parents, relatives and friends have also tested negative for Zika, said Randeep D., State Health Commissioner.

He asserted that there is no need to panic as Zika virus infection is milder than dengue and no complications or deaths have been reported so far.

Zika, a viral disease, is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. These mosquitoes bite during the day and night. Zika can also be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. Infection during pregnancy can cause certain birth defects.

Fifty-six deliveries happened in September, October, November and till December 11 in the containment area and no birth defects have been reported in the newborns, the commissioner said. "The central team that is conducting sensitisation training on Zika for government medical officers and field staff and representatives of private medical colleges has recommended State-level sensitisation workshops for all other districts. Considering that the index case was admitted at VIMS Ballari, the team has suggested that vector surveillance and control activities should begin in Ballari as well," he said.

Mohammed Sharief, State NVBDCP Programme Officer, said the State has already put in place a containment strategy. "We have intensified active human and mosquito surveillance in a five-km radius of the epicentre in Raichur. Besides, integrated vector-control measures and routine laboratory surveillance has also been scaled up," he said.

"While house-to-house surveillance is being taken up in Raichur district, 21 samples of the 57 pregnant women under ante-natal care in the district and 10 mosquito samples for zeno diagnosis of *aedes egypti* population have been sent to NIV, Pune on Monday," he said.

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Gang carries away ATM machine

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While cases of robberies at ATMs are not unheard of, one gang recently managed to steal the ATM machine itself in the city.

A gang of four masked men barged into an unmanned ATM kiosk and carried away the machine after disconnecting the power and spraying the CCTV camera with black paint on Harlur main road early on Saturday.

However, one of the CCTV cameras installed near the scene of the crime captured the images of the gang carrying away the machine in a goods vehicle.

According to the police, the gang barged into the ATM kiosk belonging to Bank of Baroda and tried to break into the machine and steal the cash. When they failed, they decided to disconnect the power supply and sprayed the CCTV camera with black paint before removing the machine and carrying it away in the goods vehicle.

The incident came to light the next day when the staff realised that the ATM kiosk was vandalised and the machine, containing ₹3.13 lakh in cash, was missing and informed the branch manager.

The Bellandur police pressed the fingerprint and the dog squad into service to analyse the crime scene. A special team has been formed to track down the gang, S. Girish, DCP, Whitefield division, said.

Cold spell to stretch to next week

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following spells of rain and cold wave conditions in Karnataka over the last few days due to the impact of Cyclone Mandous, the Health Department has advised people, especially children, pregnant women, elderly citizens and people with co-morbid conditions, to remain protected.

"Karnataka is experiencing light to heavy intermittent showers, cold breeze, and lower temperatures are being recorded as a result of cyclone Mandous, which is likely to last for a week, or more. Further, there is a prediction of one more cyclonic storm hitting the Bay of Bengal during next week," according to the advisory.

In a list of dos and don'ts, the Health Department has advised people to refrain from going on long journeys (especially weekend or sightseeing trips). "Do not consume cool drinks, ice cream, cold or refrigerated water, get drenched in the rain or be exposed to chilly and windy conditions. Avoid consuming spicy or masala-laden food," states the advisory.

"Keep yourselves hydrated, and preferably drink warm water or warm soup; consume freshly prepared food, which is easy to digest; keep yourself warm by wearing sweaters, socks, and gloves, and stay warm even when you are indoors."

"Avoid going outside, unless it is necessary; plug your ears with cotton or use a scarf, and wear a mask while stepping out. Avoid coming in contact with those who have a fever, cold, cough; cough or sneeze into your elbow or use tissue or handkerchief while coughing; wash your hands with soap and water frequently."

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14	
RISE 06:33	SET 17:55
RISE 23:06	SET 11:13
THURSDAY, DEC. 15	
RISE 06:33	SET 17:56
RISE 23:53	SET 11:51
FRIDAY, DEC. 16	
RISE 06:34	SET 17:56
RISE 00:00	SET 12:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	25	22
Mysuru	28	18
Bengaluru	25	19

Bengaluru Today
25°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be pleasant but humid. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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24th ANNIVERSARY

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N.P.V. RAMASAMY UDAYAR
(Founder-Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra Deemed University)

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V.R. Venkataachalam
(Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra Deemed University)
and
Family Members
Trustees, Sri Ramachandra Educational and Health Trust
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15th ANNIVERSARY

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Birth : 13.7.1948
Death : 14.12.2007

Tmt. K. Rajeswari, B.A.
w/o. G. Viswanathan
Trustee, VIT
(Prop. : Sri Ramajayam Motor Service, Vellore)

Always in your remembrance

G. Viswanathan
Chancellor, VIT

Sankar, Ramani, Kadhambari
Sekar, Sandhya, Nila
Selvam, Anusha, Sujan, Sabareesh, Rajeswari

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

INBRIEF

Minister to go to Ayodhya to offer silver brick

A 150-member team led by Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who is also district in charge Minister of Ramanagaram, will leave for Ayodhya to offer a silver brick to Lord Rama. The team will leave on December 14 evening, Mr. Narayan said on Tuesday. As Ramanagaram is known for silk, a silk saree would be offered to Sita Mata. Likewise, shalya would be offered to Rama and Lakshmana. The silver brick has been worshipped as per religious norms at Ramadevara Betta and Kengal Hanumantharaya temple. Puja would be offered at Ayodhya on Thursday, the Minister said.

Book on former Chief Minister J.H. Patel released

A book titled *Media and J.H. Patel* was released in Bengaluru on Monday at a programme organised by the J.H. Patel Prathishtana to mark the 23rd death anniversary of former Chief Minister J.H. Patel. Prathisthaana Managing Trustee and Patel's son Mahima Patel, senior journalists H.R. Ranganath and M. Siddaraju were present.

Almatti-Pennar link project: State asks NWDA to stop formulation of DPR

Karnataka expresses concern at not being allocated share in Godavari-Cauvery river link project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Raising objection to the formulation of the detailed project report (DPR) for the Almatti-Pennar proposed link project, Karnataka has registered its concern over not being indicated or allocated its share of water in the Godavari-Cauvery river linking project.

Karnataka has seen a progressive downward slide in its allocation of water from Mahadayi, Godavari, and Cauvery river basin diversions from the earlier 283 tmcft to 164 tmcft and subsequent abolition of Karnataka's share in both Krishna and Cauvery basin through a report of National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 2010 too has affected the State, Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol said on Tuesday.

Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Registering the State's stand at the 36th NWDA meeting at Delhi, he said: "In respect of Almatti-Pennar proposed link project by NWDA, Karnataka reiterates that NWDA shall not go ahead with the formulation of DPR of Krishna-Pennar link project in view of the concern conveyed to the agency."

The Union Ministry of Water Resources, the Minister pointed out, in October 2015 had informed that sharing of additional water of Mahadayi and Godavari among States concerned, including Karnataka, will be decided keeping in view the provisions of the existing tribunal awards of Godavari and Krishna river basin. "In spite of the assurance, Karnataka has not been indicated or allocated any quantum of water out of surplus water of Godavari basin in the DPR and modified DPR of the Cauvery-Godavari link project," he said.

Mr. Karjol also argued that the Bedthi-Varada link project has nothing to do with diversion of surplus water from Mahdayai and Godavari. "This is an intra-State link and therefore cannot be integrated with inter-State link."

For historic reasons, Karnataka has not been allocated its rightful share from various tribunal awards though the State's drought prone area in the country is next only to Rajasthan, he added. Mr. Karjol pointed out: "Since 2010, Karnataka has been requesting the Union government and NWDA to set right the injustice caused to the State. This issue has also been put forth in Southern Zonal Council meeting by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai."

Cong. trying to create confusion over increase in quota for SC, ST: Bommai

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaking to reporters at Mysuru airport on Tuesday. M.A. SRIRAM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has blamed the Congress for creating confusion over the State government's recent decision to increase reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities in the State.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru enroute to Chamarajanagar on Tuesday, Mr. Bommai said the Congress was creating confusion by citing the recent reply given by the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Pratima Bhoumik in the Rajya Sabha, that there was no proposal before the Centre to alter the reservation scheme.

Mr. Bommai argued the Union Minister's reply pertained only to the question asked by a Rajya Sabha member whether there was any proposal before the government at present. "It may not be at present. But, tomorrow our proposal will be presented," he said.

Cong. demands answers

The Congress had sought a clarification from the Chief Minister on the status of the State government's proposal to increase the quota for SCs from the present 15% to 17% and for STs from 3% to 7% in light of the Union Minister's response to a question from Ambumani Ramadoss whether the government had any proposal to relax the 50% ceiling on reservations.

The party had demanded to know how the Bommai government proposed to give effect to the increase in quota from the present 50% to 56% to accommodate the recent hike for SCs and STs.

Mr. Bommai said the Congress had ignored the demand for increasing the quota for SCs and STs, which had been pending for the last 40 years. He added that the Congress could not deceive people by assuring them internal reservation.

Referring to a recent tweet by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that the Congress would provide internal reservation when it came to power, Mr. Bommai said the Congress had done nothing more than organise a conference and make an assurance in this regard before the previous polls.

The Congress should learn that they cannot repeatedly deceive the people, he said.

Cabinet expansion

Though his upcoming visit to Delhi – to participate in a meeting of Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra, convened by Home Minister Amit Shah – was to discuss the border row which is now before the Supreme Court, Mr. Bommai said he was also prepared for a discussion on a possible Cabinet expansion.

The State would clarify its stand on the issue before the Home Secretary by detailing the State Reorganisation's Act and other processes, he said.

To another question on the impact of the cyclone in Karnataka, Mr. Bommai said he had asked the Agriculture Department to conduct a survey on the extent of damage to crops in the State because of the cyclone.

Deve Gowda raises irrigation issues with PM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on Tuesday said he raised the irrigation issues pertaining to Cauvery, Krishna, and Mahadayi rivers with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and explained to him about the injustice meted out to Karnataka.

Speaking to reporters in Delhi, the Janata Dal (Secular) leader said: "Mr. Modi said that it had become difficult for him to decide on the inter-State disputes over river-water sharing. He gave the example of Narmada river water sharing though it was BJP ruled States."

Mr. Gowda also said that he had urged the Prime Minister to ensure that Kunchitiga community be added in the list of other backward communities.

Bail plea: Court gives options to Murugha seer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru of Sri Jagadguru Murugarajendra Brihan Mutt will now have to inform the High Court of Karnataka on whether he wants to pursue his bail petition filed before the charge sheet was filed against him in the sexual assault case or he wants to approach the trial court to seek bail afresh as the charge sheet was filed when his petition was pending before the High Court.

Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar, before whom the petition came up for hearing, adjourned further hearing till December 16 to enable the seer's advocate to seek instruction on whether the seer wants to pursue the present petition.

The seer had filed the petition seeking bail in the High Court on October 10 after a trial court in Chitradurga had on September 23 refused to grant him bail.

As the police had filed charge sheet against the seer and other accused in the last week of October, the High Court gave the seer an option of moving the trial court afresh as the trial court's order of rejecting his plea for bail was prior to filling of charge sheet.

Now, the seer has to decide whether he wants to pursue the plea for bail by amending the existing petition before the High Court incorporating new grounds based on the allegations levelled in the charge sheet or he wants exercise the right available to him to file a petition before the trial court for bail before knocking the doors of the High Court.

DKS seeks suggestions from Kannadiga NRIs for party manifesto

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday released a video on social media inviting Kannadiga NRIs to share their suggestions for the party manifesto, 'Global Karnataka, Better Karnataka'.

"Kannadigas have made India proud by serving at the global level. Their contributions are unparalleled as many world leaders are recognising India through Bengaluru and Karnataka. But today, Karnataka has also got a stigma. We need to cleanse it and make our State proud," Mr. Shivakumar said.

D.K. Shivakumar

In the video, he said: "Kannadiga NRIs must suggest how should the State and its governance change for better?" He also requested Kannadigas to share their frank and fair opinions along with suggestions about the areas where the State needs to improve and how innovations can be incorporated.

"G. Parameshwara is the chairman of the manifesto committee that will finalise the draft," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar said people can share their suggestions on makekarnatakaproud@gmail.com

Muslim leaders discuss plan to prevent split of votes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

MLAs and leaders belonging to the Muslim community on Tuesday convened a meeting to work out a strategy for consolidation of minority community votes in favour of the Congress in the polls.

MLAs U.T. Khader, Tanveer Sait, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Rizwan Arshad, KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed, party leader K. Rahman Khan, and 50 other leaders attended the meeting.

Mr. Ahmed said conventions of minority and OBC voters would be held in five zones in January. Though there are 100 aspirants for tickets from the community, he said KPCC will decide on fielding number of candidates in Muslim dominated areas, he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE

Sri Rajagopala Swamigal

Founder of
Nanganallur Sarvamangala Sri Rajarajeswari Ashram,
Sri Lakshmi Satyanarayana Perumal Temple and
Keelkattalai Veera Anjaneyar Vaikunda Perumal Temple

Attained Ambal's Divine Abode
around 7:30 PM on 12.12.2022

Deeply mourned by
Swamigal's Devotees

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Grant No and Project Name: Grant 9232-IND: Integrated Urban Flood Management for the Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar Basin Project - Additional Financing.

1. Contract No. and Title: GCC/JFPR/EQ/01; Supply and delivery of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) related items, equipment, kits and consumables

2. Contract No. and Title : GCC/JFPR/EQ/02; Supply of Media device and equipment for WASH related activities

1. The Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai, Tamil Nadu ("the Purchaser") invites bids from eligible suppliers for the two contract packages named above. Bids are invited under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) National procedure of ADB which is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. Detailed Notice of Invitation for Bids (IFB) and the Bid document for above packages would be available at **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** starting from **17.12.2022.** Deadline for bid submission is **15:00** hours on **18.01.2023.** All required information's are provided in the bid document.
3. Online & Offline Pre-bid Meeting will be held at **14:00** hours on **29.12.2022.** All the prospective suppliers are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
4. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the tender web site **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and will not be published in Newspapers.
5. Bidders may contact Superintending Engineer, Storm water drain department, Greater Chennai Corporation, Ripon Building, Chennai,

DIPR/5524 /TENDER/2022
Superintending Engineer, Storm Water Drain Department, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-1275/03/2017 32255 Dated :- 12.12.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work : Construction of RCC/SFRC Pre-cast compound wall at Mundamba Village K1 Industrial Area, Dist-Khordha.
Estimated Cost : Rs.350.656 Lakhs (approx.).
Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months.
Pre-Bid meeting is to be conducted on dtd. 02.01.2023 at 3.30 P.M.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Id. No. PC/EST/E-119 / 2022-23	17.00 Hours of 20.12.2022	17.00 Hours of 05.01.2023

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tenderorissa.gov.in and IDCO Website www.idco.in.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-4111
OIPR-14003/11/0224/2223

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
30/1, 1st & 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 051. Phone No: 080-43790743

No: DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/11/2022-23 Date: 13.12.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

1. The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract completion period
1.	Procurement and Installation of Automatic Waste Segregation Machine (including Dry Waste/ Wet Waste/ Sanitary Waste etc.)	775.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online/RTGS/ NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.6,75,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	As per e-procurement portal	09 Months

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on **27-12-2022 at 15:00 hours** in office of the CE&CGM (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru- 560 026.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours on **05.01.2023** and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be opened through e-portal only on **06.01.2023** after **16:30** hours at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** E-procurement portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e-procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portal only.
5. GST shall be paid separately.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

DIPR/CP/AAA/3507/2022-23

INBRIEF

Component for Kudankulam reactor tested successfully

ZIO-Podolsk JSC, an arm of the machine-building division of Rosatom State Corporation - JSC Atomenergomash, which is supplying critical components to the now operational 2 x 1,000 MWe VVER reactors and also four more similar reactors under construction, has fabricated and successfully tested a set of main equipment - the first set of separator-reheater - for Unit 5 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant.

From Page One

Uniform yearly exams for Class 5, 8 students

The move to conduct regular examinations and the provision to retain students has drawn some flak with some pointing out that it might lead to additional stress and depression with the concept of retention around, but it has also earned praise from some stakeholders. Referring to how the central board students do not have to go through such examinations for the same classes, the Registered Unaided Private Schools' Management Association (RUPSA) said, "It is against law to have two education systems in one State. Due to COVID-19, the children have not properly received education in the last two years. In government schools, there is a shortage of teachers and basic resources. Even textbooks were not provided on time. When learning is only difficult in such times, what will the condition of the children be if they are burdened with board exams and tougher rules?" asked Lokesh Taalikatte, president, RUPSA. The Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, has on the other hand, welcomed the move. Government officials said that retention or stressing children out is not the objective of the decision. "This was in discussion from a long time to see how to make this exam comfortable for children as a part of the RTE Act. We will also equip students well to take this exam and keep it as a slow introduction and not make it very tough. We want to assess them and motivate them to perform better and we will also know objectively the learning gaps which are existent. 99.9% children will pass the exams and the remaining will be provided additional instruction to help them get to the next class," said Vishal R. Commissioner, Department of Public Instruction.

Kerala passes Bills to replace Governor as head of varsities

The legislations will enable State to appoint heads of State universities, however, it is subject to the Governor's assent; Opposition UDF stages walkout over refusal to accept its suggestions

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Assembly on Tuesday passed two University Law (Amendment) Bills to replace the Governor as the Chancellor of 14 State universities.

The legislations, subject to the Governor's assent, will enable the State government to appoint academicians or "persons of eminence" in various fields of knowledge as Chancellors in all State universities except the National University of Advanced Legal Studies, and Kerala Kalamandalam.

Arif Mohammed Khan

The Opposition, United Democratic Front (UDF), staged a walkout in protest against the refusal to accept the amendments the party proposed to the Bill.

They also accused the Left Democratic Front (LDF) of attempting to erode the autonomy of universities and turn them into Marxist centres.

The Opposition sprung a surprise during the discussion as they moved a motion to appoint a Chancellor for the 14 universities instead of separate Chancellors for each.

Law Minister P. Rajeeve proposed the inclusion of the Speaker on the panel that would be chaired by the Chief Minister and also have the Leader of the Opposition as a member. The Minister refused to accept the other proposals that were made by the Opposition.

Meanwhile, a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday stayed a single judge's verdict upholding the action of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan in his capacity as Chancellor in appointing Ciza Thomas, Senior Joint Director, Directorate of Technical Education, as Vice-Chancellor in-charge of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU).

The single judge, while dismissing a petition by the Kerala government challenging the Chancellor's action, had directed the Chancellor and the University Grants Commission to constitute a selection committee for the appointment of the new V-C within two months.

(With inputs from Kochi)

Summoning mobile tower location of person not party to case violates right to privacy: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Summoning of tower location of mobile phones of a person, who is not party to a matrimonial case between a man and a couple, amounts to violation of right to privacy of the third party, said the High Court of Karnataka.

"Third party's privacy cannot be permitted to be violated on the plea of the husband that he wants to prove illicit relationship between his wife and another man," the court said. Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a plea filed by a 39-year-old man. The petitioner had questioned the family court's 2019 order of allowing the husband's plea for summoning the mobile tower location details of the numbers of his wife and the petitioner alleging that his wife has an illicit relationship with the petitioner.

The mobile tower location details were summoned by the court in a proceeding initiated by the husband seeking annulment of marriage on the ground of cruelty.

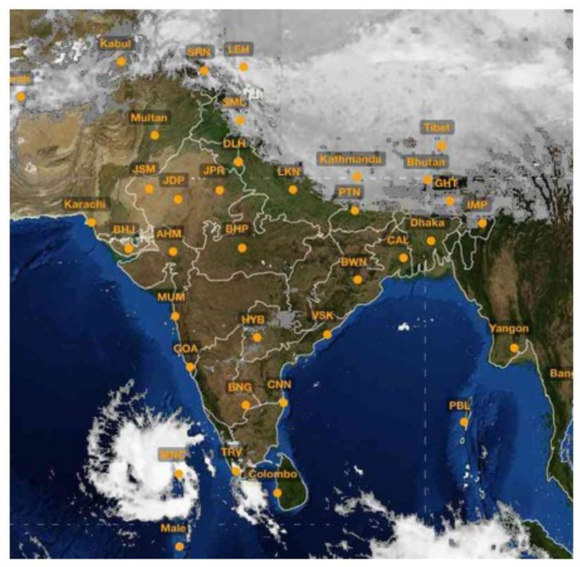
The family court had said that summoning of mobile tower location would not violate privacy as the husband was not seeking summoning of conversation through calls and SMS chats but was seeking only tower location details.

"It would undoubtedly violate the right to privacy of the petitioner, who is not a party and who is not put on notice. Therefore, permitting tower details of wife in 2018 against her the petitioner would be contrary to law without him being in the know of any proceedings between the husband and the wife, but only on an allegation of the husband that the wife is in illicit relationship with the petitioner," HC said.

Observing that informational privacy also forms an integral part of right to privacy, the High Court said the wife not challenging the family court's order of summoning the tower location would have no bearing on the right of the petitioner to challenge the order.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh. Squally wind likely to prevail over southeast Bay of Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.8	14.2	Kozhikode	28	31.8	23.0
Ahmedabad	—	31.5	21.3	Kurnool	2	31.1	21.6
Aizawl	—	—	10.6	Lucknow	—	27.0	12.8
Allahabad	—	30.0	13.8	Madurai	0.1	33.8	23.0
Bengaluru	9.2	25.4	19.4	Mangaluru	0.9	29.9	22.8
Bhopal	8.4	—	16.2	Mumbai	—	34.5	25.4
Bhubaneswar	—	32.0	19.0	Mysuru	9	26.0	18.4
Chandigarh	—	26.8	9.9	New Delhi	—	26.8	8.9
Chennai	34	30.1	22.6	Patna	—	26.3	13.0
Coimbatore	4	30.0	20.5	Port Blair	—	31.0	24.4
Dehradun	—	27.8	9.4	Puducherry	23.5	29.2	22.4
Gangtok	—	16.0	9.1	Pune	—	28.3	21.2
Goa	—	32.5	24.0	Raipur	—	32.5	21.3
Guwahati	—	27.7	15.3	Ranchi	—	28.2	15.9
Hubballi	—	27.0	20.0	Shillong	—	17.2	8.4
Hyderabad	1	28.7	20.9	Shimla	—	18.0	8.8
Imphal	—	23.9	7.3	Srinagar	—	13.0	-2.2
Jaipur	—	27.2	13.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	33.4	21.7
Kochi	5	30.4	23.6	Tiruchi	1	29.9	23.0
Kohima	—	21.0	7.0	Vijayawada	—	30.5	24.2
Kolkata	—	29.8	17.0	Visakhapatnam	0.9	31.0	23.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.18	107	.25	63	95	
Bengaluru	.12	20	.36	95	73	
Chennai	.25	42	.36	71	61	
Delhi	.14	40	.22	321	285	
Hyderabad	6	9	.74	40	54	
Kolkata	.13	.29	.48	342	311	
Lucknow	.16	.50	.88	196	160	
Mumbai	.19	.21	104	272	172	
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	.26	.40	.25	92	101	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Darbhanga, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 473 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Hassan, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT CENTRAL PRISON
Parappanna Agrahara, Electronic City Post, Bengaluru-560 100.

No.CPB/TENDER/DP/2022-23/TELECOM TOWER/CALL-2
Date: 09-12-2022

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE, CALL-2

Selection of vendor to build, operate and maintenance of Telecom Tower and other related passive infrastructure for the Telecom equipments of Departments of Prison and Correctional Services, at Bengaluru Central Prison, Karnataka through e-procurement as per KTTP 1999 and 2000 Act.

Tender Indent No : DP/2022-23/TELECOM TOWER/CPBLR/CALL-2. **Brief Details of Tender:** Selection of vender to build, operate and maintenance of Telecom Tower and other related passive infrastructure for the Telecom equipments of Departments of Prison and Correctional Services, at Bengaluru Central Prison. **EMD Amount (Rs) : 3,75,000/-.** Last Date for Submission: **26-12-2022 at 17:00 hrs.**

In order to Participate in e-procurement Platform all intended supplier have to register in the e-procurement Portal. Suppliers can also take assistance with e-procurement help desk. For further details please visit at **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Superintendent Central Prison, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/RO3496/AAPL/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/TWM/SMG/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/F-/6445-451 Dt: 12.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-procurement mode only)

K.P.T.C.L. invites tenders through e-Procurement mode from the reputed Electrical Contractors possessing Super Grade Electrical Contractor License having PF registration for the following works.

(1) Tender No: KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT10090 for Transportation (To & Fro), Repair of Sick Power Transformer, Testing, Assembling, Erection and Commissioning of repaired Power Transfprmer of rating 10MVA, 110/11kV Class, VOLTAMP Make, Sl.No.: JN8165/2 YOM:2003 Power Transformer Failed & kept at **220/110/11kV Kadur** R/S in Nodal Centre Kadur, TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Chikkamagaluru.

(2) Tender No: KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT10091 for Transportation (To & Fro), Repair of Sick Power Transformer, Testing, Assembling, Erection and Commissioning of repaired Power Transfprmer of rating 10MVA, 110/11kV Class, APEX Make, Sl.No.: T933A/05 YOM:1996 Power Transformer Failed & kept at **110/11kV MUSS Birur** in Kadur Nodal Centre, TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Chikkamagaluru.

(3) Tender No: KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT10092 for Transportation (To & Fro), Repair of Sick Power Transformer, Testing, Assembling, Erection and Commissioning of repaired Power Transfprmer of rating 10MVA, 110/11kV Class, SPEC Make, Sl.No.: 43317 YOM:2011 DOF: 04.05.2021 Power Transformer Failed & kept at **110/11kV Hosur** Sub-station in Nodal Centre Shikaripura, 400kV Station & SSM Division, KPTCL, Talaguppa.

For detailed Information and to participate in the tender through e-procurement mode please visit our website **www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** hyperlink **"e-procurement"** or directly you can access the tendering website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or **after 11.00 AM on 15.12.2022**. Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,Elecl.,
Tr.(W&M)Circle, Prasarana Bhavana, MRS Colony, KPTCL, Shivamogga-577203. Ph: 08182-272624

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Bidar District, Bidar-585401, Telephone No: 08482-229332, Fax No: 08482-225262
E-Mail: itstaff_dudc_bidar@yahoo.com

No: MUN/Works/BU/2022-23 Dated: 12-12-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Deputy Commissioner, Bidar district, Bidar invites the Tender from interested contractors for various items as specified in tender documents for Celebration of "BIDAR UTSAV 2023" at Bidar Fort.

Description of work and Indent No. 1) Providing VIP chairs, fibre chairs, sofa sets, food court stalls, green house and frisking canopes, media room and carpet in fort premises for Bidar Utsav programme in Bidar fort premises for 3 days from 7th January to 9th January 2023 (DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT143295/CALL-2). **EMD (Rs. In Rupees)-17050**. 2) Illumination in various locations for celebration of Bidar Utsav at Bidar Fort premises for 3 days from 7th January to 9th January 2023 (DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT143296/CALL-2) **EMD (Rs. In Rupees)**-21148. 3) Providing sound systems and lightings for Bidar Utsav at Bidar Fort premises for 3 days from 7th January to 9th January 2023 (DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT143297/CALL-2). **EMD (Rs. In Rupees)-18853.** 4) Providing and Fixing of Main Stage Platform of Bidar Utsav at Bidar Fort premises for 3 days from 7th January to 9th January 2023 (DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 143298/CALL-2). **EMD (Rs. In Rupees)**- 9360.

Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Agencies can download the tender documents from the e-Procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Calendar of Events and other information are as follows: 1) Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents: 19-12-2022 upto 04.30 PM. 2) Date of Opening of Tenders : 20-12-2022 at 05.00 PM

Tender conditions and further information can be obtained from the said office during working hours. if any changes in the calendar of events and the conditions will be notified on e procurement portal only.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Bidar District, Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/368/MC&A/2022-23

15th ANNIVERSARY
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(PROP: SRI RAMAJAYAM BUS SERVICE)

W/o. **Dr.G. Viswanathan**
Founder - Chancellor, VIT University.

Dr. **G.V. Sampath**
(Chairman - Naruvi Hospitals)

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KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001,
Ph: 080-25581383/ 25589112, Fax: 080-2558 6321
Email: contact@kspcb.gov.in Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB/124/BLD/2022/6106 **Date : 08-12-2022**

INVITATION FOR TENDER
CALL-1
(Through GOK e-procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by The Member Secretary for the following work:

Name of the work: Providing Electrical Connection to CAAQM Stations installed at Hubli and Dharwad. Approx Value of the work: **Rs.12.55 lakhs.** All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement website: **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY

DIPR/CP/3497/GREENFMC/2022-23

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Phone:080-22278813/14/15/16
Fax No.080-22213172 **www.ksmc.karnataka.gov.in**

No. KSMCL/LEE/EPM/3/2022-23 **Date: 12-12-2022**

e-Tender Invitation

KSMCL invites e-Tender for selection of Contractor/Agency for Post Environmental Monitoring & Compliance Report on Environmental Clearance and CFO Conditions for its Mines (Tender No.204/KSMCL/ENV/Post Monitoring/2022-23/2450).

Calender of Events:

1.	Last date and time for uploading of e-Tender	27.12.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.
2.	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid	29.12.2022 at 11:00 a.m.
3.	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.99,100/- (Rupees Ninety Nine Thousand One Hundred only)

The e-Tender document can be downloaded from e-procurement website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Contact e-procurement help desk No. 080-46010000/ 68948777, e-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com for any support in uploading and registration.

DIPR/CP/RO3504/AAPL/2022-23 **Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (A&V)**

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(An ISO 9001-2000 Certified Government of Karnataka Company)
60, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560 025, e-Mail: **eebng@ksphc.org**
No.KSPH&IDCL/EE-BNG(R)/TND/2022-23/01/451 Date: 13.12.2022

SHORT-TERM ABSTRACT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invite online tendering through e-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for the following work:

Name of the work	Approx. amount put to tender
Providing Drinking Water Supply for Police Qtrs at Chikkaballapura in Chikkaballapura District.	Rs.16.14 Lakhs

Period of Contract including monsoon: **03 Months.** Class of Contractor: **Class-III and above.** The bidders having experience in similar nature of work may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender Fees, EMD Charges, Tender Documents etc., are available on e-Procurement Portal from **Date: 21.12.2022.**

Note: Henceforth any Changes / Modifications in the Tender will be updated only on e-Procurement Portal

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Bangalore Rural Division, KSPH&IDCL, Bengaluru

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Is your organisation up to date with the annual PoSH report?

A company with more than 10 employees is expected to file it before the end of the calendar year; and the deadline is usually extended up to the end of January

Liffy Thomas

There is a time for everything under the sun. And the time for organisations to file the annual report on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) is upon them. In fact, the time is in its last embers. The best practice is to file the report by the end of the calendar year or by January end. If the organisation misses the deadline, it could still turn it in late. Better late than never – for, submitting an annual compliance report under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013 ("Act") is not an option, but an inescapable responsibility mandated by law.

Non-compliance can invite a penalty of ₹50,000. Repeated non-compliance will invite severe penalty and that includes the possibility of suspension or cancellation of the license or registration to work, says Smita Shetty Kapoor, CEO and co-founder, KelpHR.

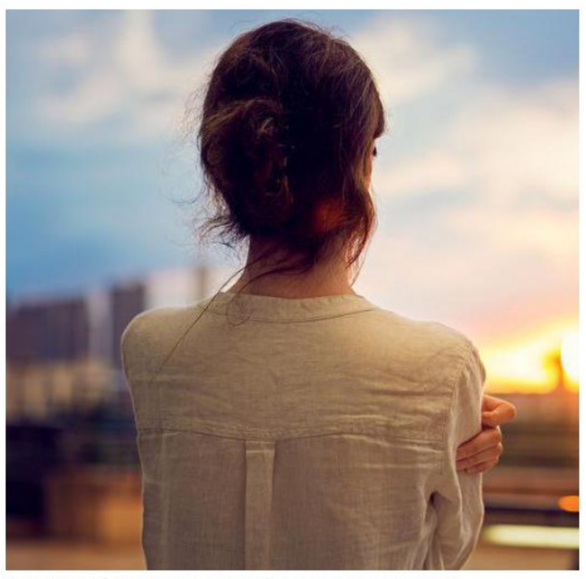

Photo used for representational purpose. GETTY IMAGES

The contents

The annual document must report the number of sexual harassment complaints filed in the year, number of complaints disposed of, complaints pending for resolution for more than 90 days and the nature of the action taken by the employer. Smita notes failure to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee and the failure to act upon the recommendations made by such a committee would also invite punishment.

A checklist that needs to be filled and submitted as part of the annual report would carry the details of the seminars and workshops that were conducted to sensitise employees about the Act.

How many workshops should an organisation conduct in a year?

Antony J Alex, CEO, Rainmaker, says the law does not provide any clarity on that, but expects an orientation programme to be conducted at least once in a year.

"As a best practice, this workshop should be offered to employees at least twice a year. It could be a combination of online and in-person workshops," says Antony.

Greater awareness

Smita says there is no official data from the Government that show how many organisations are prompt in filing the annual PoSH report, but it has been nudging organisations to comply with the Act.

Recently, the Women and Child Development Ministry directed all central ministries, departments and PSUs to ensure effective implementation of the Act.

In a communication, Women and Child Development secretary Ivender Pandey requested all government offices to ensure that internal committees are constituted at workplaces and made functional.

A directive was also given to the internal committees to conduct a special drive to review the pending cases and take appropriate action before December 9, 2022. All secretaries of the Central Ministries were asked to submit the report of this exercise by December 20.

Smita believes there are lessons from some states and districts that others would do well to imbibe.

"Gurugram has a practice where notices are sent to companies not filing their annual PoSH report. In Noida and Telangana, an app is offered to institutions to file the report with ease," says Smita. What if an organisation has not filed for the last few years and wants to submit those reports now? Experts say the law is silent on this question, but such companies must catch up on their backlog and regularise it. Antony says: "We would always urge companies to go to the district officer with reports pertaining to the previous years, in addition to the one from the current year; some might accept those reports as well."

'A consolidated, updated list of district officers would help'

Last year, a Thoothukudi-based company (name withheld on request) found the filing of the annual report on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) to be a never-ending process.

> ***The challenge arose from the fact that some of the "addresses" were not valid anymore***

Under Section 21 of the PoSH Act, the Internal Committee (IC) of an organisation has to prepare and submit a PoSH annual report to the employer and the district officer. Given the spread of this particular company, the report had to be submitted at 55 addresses.

The challenge arose from the fact that some of the "addresses" were not valid anymore.

Under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the respective government has to be appoint a district officer to whom the annual PoSH report should be submitted.

Who makes the cut as district officer?

The government can choose any of the following three as district officer who can implement the provisions of the Act – the district magistrate; the additional district magistrate; the deputy collector.

This district officer is responsible not only for what should follow the submission of the annual PoSH report but also for what precedes it. The district officer's responsibilities include keeping a watch on organisations – the qualifying factor being any organisation that has more than ten employees – in the district to see if they have formed an internal complaints committee.

There is a provision under the PoSH Act – under Section 6 of the Act – aimed at creating a redressal system for women employees of organisations with less than 10 employees on their payroll.

The district officer would constitute what is called a Local Complaints Committee for the district to attend to complaints coming from these organisations.

Lack of lists

Smita Shetty Kapoor, CEO and co-founder, KelpHR, the lack of a consolidated list of district officers, as notified by the respective government, can slow down the process of filing the annual PoSH report. There is also the situation where a consolidated list would be available, but it would not have been updated.

The district officer would have changed, but the list would retain what has now become a misleading address. This challenge is usually more keenly felt in non-metros.

An awareness poster at an office.

GENERAL

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b	उप महाप्रबंधक (मार्केटिंग) Dy. General Manager (Marketing)	दिल्ली Delhi	VII	1
c	सुरक्षा अधिकारी Security Officer	कोरवा, कानपुर, बेंगलूर Korwa, Kanpur, Bangalore	II	3
d	अधिकारी (राजभाषा) Officer (Official Language)	कोरवा Korwa	II	1
e	अभियंता (सिविल) Engineer (Civil)	बेंगलूर Bangalore	II	1
f	अग्निशमन अधिकारी Fire Officer	कोरवा, कानपुर, बेंगलूर Korwa, Kanpur, Bangalore	II	3

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07/12/2022
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‘Every second employee wants their children to avoid their profession’

According to a new global study on workforce engagement, this sentiment is particularly pronounced in India

Representational image. PHOTO: MAHINSHA S

On the question of whether a professional would want their children to follow in their footsteps, and step into their professions, India topped the table for those who answered it in the negative.

More than 60% of respondents from India stated they would not recommend their profession or employer to their children or for that matter, to any young person they care about.

In a report titled ‘We can fix work’ commissioned by The Workforce Institute at UKG, it was found that nearly half (46%) of employees globally would not recommend their company nor their profession to their children.

The study found that 52% of the people would tell their children to pursue jobs in which they find ‘meaning’ instead of being completely driven by the pay scale.

The survey also focussed on the sore points worrying today’s employees.

Workforce burnout

As per the report, a disinclination towards work is a phenomenon observed across ranks of employees and leaders. Forty-five percent of employees worldwide do not want to work anymore. Amongst the C-suite leaders, it is the younger leaders that are ready to bow out of work completely, especially those belonging to the Gen Z (58%), who say they do not want to work anymore. When compared to those C-suite leaders who are soon to be retiring from their jobs, 36% of the millennial leaders and 33% of the Gen X leaders are ready to not work anymore.

The overtime factor

More than half (58%) of the workforce, globally, who work overtime three to four times per week, would not recommend their profession to their children. As per the report, more money does not equate to job satisfaction for individuals, as most people have a transactional relationship with work and only 23% of the employees genuinely enjoy their work and are passionate about it. In fact, 64% of them would switch jobs right now if they could.

Future of work

In a release, Neil J Solomon, vice president, Asia Pacific and Latin America at UKG, said for a changing workforce, we need to develop a workplace culture that nourishes and nurtures the overall development of its employees, takes care of their physical as well as mental wellbeing, appreciates their efforts, and maintains a mutual sense of respect with individuals at different levels of the organisation irrespective of hierarchies. This is the beginning of the future of work and employee-centricity is at the heart of it.

The report says that in 2023 and beyond, employees will not let employers get by on “good enough.” They want a great place to work and may not be at a company much longer if it does connect their job with purpose, the report adds. Three things the report suggests: connect employees to purpose; give employees the feeling of being heard; and encourage people to disconnect and recharge.

The report makes three suggestions: connect employees to purpose; give employees the feeling of being heard; and encourage people to disconnect and recharge

The report sought feedback from 2,200 employees, surveyed in partnership with Workplace Intelligence across Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Mexico, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as 600 C-suite leaders and 600 HR executives in the United States.

NEWS BYTES

A sapling for each employee

LTIMindtree, a global technology consulting and digital solutions company, has planted 100,000 saplings — one for each member of its workforce — to mark its inception.

Formed on November 14, 2022 through the merger of erstwhile Larsen and Toubro Infotech (LTI) and Mindtree, LTIMindtree implemented this green initiative across Assam, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana and West Bengal, having taken it up in partnership with SankalpTaru Foundation, an NGO focused on reforestation and environmental conservation.

Full-time as well as contract employees of LTIMindtree are being presented with personalised certificates of plantation, along with photographs and location details of the saplings planted in their names. Through a web-based, blockchain-powered backend system, the employees will also be able to monitor the growth of their saplings.

‘Moonlight’ with this company

M2P Fintech has launched an initiative “Moonlight with Us”, one that provides opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs, professional athletes and artists to pursue their passion, even as they are employed with the company. Modelled around a flexible work schedule, the programme making it possible for employees to pursue their aspirations.

A regular salary-paying employment, along with associated benefits, would give them an additional safety net in terms of finances while their dream projects (outside of their work) are at the conceptual stage, adds the release.

To know more and apply for the ‘Moonlight with Us’ initiative, please visit www.m2pfintech.com/moonlight

Flipkart invites applications for second cohort

Under its accelerator programme ‘Flipkart Leap’, Flipkart has opened applications for its second cohort. Its two programmes Flipkart Leap Ahead and Flipkart Leap Innovation Network are tailored to meet the needs of startups across their growth journey, supporting them through insights, mentorship and funding as needed. While Flipkart Leap Ahead will provide equity-based investments into startups across sectors, Flipkart Leap Innovation Network will enable companies to enter into commercial partnerships with Flipkart’s technology teams, says a press release. The applications are open until January 10, 2023.

The startups will also be mentored by senior business, operations, product and tech leaders in Flipkart.

Startups building the next big thing across areas such as Logistics, Supply chain, Sustainability, Fintech, Healthtech, Gaming, Edtech, Consumer Tech, Web3 can apply.

For women on a career break

VMware, in partnership with She Loves Data (SLD) India, is offering women on a career break an opportunity to benefit from their skill-development programmes.

While VMware’s VMinclusion Taara aims to upskill women by providing them with free technical education and certification courses in Cloud Management and Automation, Data Center Virtualization, Networking, and Digital Workplaces, SLD seeks to make more women data-literate through their signature programmes on technology.

Workplaces assessed for health commitments

More than 30 Indian and global companies were recognised for championing workplace health, at the annual healthy workplace conference organised by Arogya World, a non-profit organisation working to prevent non-communicable diseases.

The 2022 Healthy Workplace companies are: Mercedes-Benz, State Bank of India, Mumbai International Airport, Sony Entertainment Television, HCL, Tata Motors, Adecco, Coffee Board, Mikro Grafeio, Avian WE, LV Prasad Eye Hospital, Bagmane, RMZ - CBRE, Fresenius - Kabi, Garbha Gudi IVF Centre, Aprava (Jhajjar Power), CGI, Vedanta Limited (Jharsuguda), Cairn Oil & Gas, Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, Vedanta Limited (Lanjigarh), Ferro Alloys Corporation Limited, Talwandi Sabo Power Limited, Vedanta Ltd- Sesa Goa Iron Ore Business, Hindustan Zinc Limited, ESL Steel Limited, Sterlite Copper, Department of Tourism (Karnataka) and Quess Staffing.

According to a press release, the programme undertakes rigorous assessment that involves interaction with health experts, where companies are evaluated on the basis of whether they are aligned with WHO guidelines.

Arogya World also recognised five companies – Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Manipal Cigna, Indian Oil, and Haleon – for attaining the Platinum level, the highest level of honour defined for this programme and for demonstrating a data-driven culture of health.

GENERAL

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Gujarat as a model

The BJP should craft a more empathetic governance paradigm

Bhupendra Patel, who on Monday took oath as Gujarat Chief Minister for a second term, is the third person to succeed Narendra Modi in the State. Mr. Patel enjoys the complete confidence of Mr. Modi, whose popularity won the day for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the recent Assembly elections. Mr. Patel's role in the campaign was limited, but now into his second term, the pressure is on him to emerge as a leader of his own standing. The new Council of Ministers has 16 members, representing various communities and regions of the State. Three are Patidars, five are from the Other Backward Classes, two are Kolis, one each from Brahmin, Jain and Rajput communities, two from the tribal communities, and one from the Scheduled Castes. Six of the Ministers are from Saurashtra, four from the south, and three each from the central and northern regions of the State. At least four defectors from the Congress have found a place. The BJP's massive victory masked, but did not possibly erase, public resentment regarding corruption and inflation, which several pre-poll surveys recorded. Gujarat continues to attract investment, with the proactive help of the Centre, where two leaders from the State hold sway, i.e., Mr. Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. But that alone will not suffice and the new government already has its plate full.

Tackling unemployment rates must be high priority, particularly in the rural areas and the tribal belt of the State. Ensuring transparency in governance is an immediate challenge for the new government. The weakening of state capacity due to contract employment has aggravated governance challenges in recent years. In the social sector, education, health and nutrition, spending and outcomes are not commensurate with the State's status of prosperity. This may have contributed to the penetration of the Aam Aadmi Party in the tribal belt where people experience a distance from Gujarat's famed growth model. Economic development has remained robust under BJP rule, but the benefits have been largely cornered by the upper segments of society, mostly upper castes and a few powerful sections of the OBCs. In terms of per capita Net State Domestic Product, Gujarat is among the better States, and is ranked sixth (2020-21). But the State being ranked 26 among 30 States in stunting (2019-20), and on several other parameters, tells a story of persistent underdevelopment. Mr. Patel should use the renewed political mandate to craft a more empathetic governance model for Gujarat.

Interim relief

Headline inflation's moderation below 6% in November may not sustain yet

After a seemingly interminable 10-month streak of Indian consumers facing runaway price rise of over 6%, retail inflation appeared to have relented a bit in November to 5.88%. This may only be slightly below the 6% upper tolerance threshold for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), but constitutes some relief. Since April 2022, when retail prices surged at a near-eight year high rate of 7.8%, five of the first eight months of 2022-23 year registered 7%-plus inflation. Sequentially, November's 0.9 percentage point drop from October's 6.77% mark is the sharpest moderation in this period, with a similar correction in rural inflation's trajectory though it remains high at 6.1%. The Finance Ministry termed this a 'drastic decline' mainly attributable to a sharp decrease in food price inflation brought about by government measures. Consumer food price inflation cooled to an 11-month low of 4.67% in November from over 7% in October. Vegetable prices accounted for most of the decline in food inflation – moving from 7.8% inflation in October to deflation of 8.1% last month, and plummeting 8.3% month-on-month.

Vegetable prices may remain benign for a bit, but are volatile by nature – excluding them, retail inflation would have accelerated to 7% in November, some reckon. There has been little respite on other household budget items, including essential kitchen supplies such as cereals, milk and spices, whose inflation rates accelerated to 13%, 8.2% and 19.5%, respectively. The Government expects steps to check cereals and pulses prices to be 'felt more significantly' in coming months. Fuel inflation rebounded to 10.6%, with kerosene and coal costs rising month-on-month. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy prices and whose 'stickiness' RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das warned of in the latest monetary policy review, inched up too. Price rise in transport and communication, health, and household goods and services accelerated. About 56% of items in the Consumer Price Index basket clocked over 6% inflation in November, a higher proportion than September and October. While asserting the worst is behind us, the RBI estimates inflation to average 6.6% in this quarter, so December could yet see a bounce back beyond 7%. Inflation has to be sustainably reined in below 6% and shepherded to the preferred 4% target, but with industrial output tripping as well, the central bank may have limited room for aggressive rate hikes, and fiscal policy may have to do the heavy lifting now. That petrol pump prices remain frozen in India means no gains will accrue to consumers from the dip in global crude oil prices, unless the daily price reset regime for petroleum products is allowed to function again. The Government could fix that for starters.

The attack on the last bastion — the judiciary

Ajit Prakash Shah

is former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court and Madras High Court, and former Chairperson, Law Commission of India

Recent comments by the Vice-President, Jagdeep Dhankar, and the Law Minister, Kiren Rijiju, can be read as a concerted attack on the collegium system, the Supreme Court of India, and even the basic structure doctrine (conveniently forgetting that it is this doctrine that has kept the Indian Constitution intact). Clearly, the present government continues to try and undermine judicial independence, which it has been doing since it first came to power in 2014. As a long-standing critic of the collegium system, I might have joined a chorus that called out the problems with judicial appointments. But this onslaught from the Government has been particularly disturbing and wholly unwarranted.

An 'elected autocracy'

The Supreme Court, conceived as the custodian of the Constitution and the final arbiter of the law, has had an inconsistent history. The ghosts of *ADM Jabalpur* continue to haunt to this day. While the government under Indira Gandhi intended to destroy the judiciary during the Emergency, the entire Court, barring Justice H.R. Khanna, was also complicit in the erosion of citizens' rights that took place then.

Over the decades, after much reflection and repair, from both within and outside the judiciary, those dark days have been seemingly left behind. But what worried us then has now re-emerged to torment us again.

The present move – of attempting to undermine and discredit the judiciary, as seen in the comments – is part of the larger mission to make the executive the most powerful entity. Today, executive accountability is a thing of memory, for no one raises any questions about its actions. Since 2014, the Government has undertaken a well-crafted, deliberate takedown of various institutions and mechanisms that could hold the executive accountable. Its efforts may not be as brazen as the Indira Gandhi-led government, but the same ends are being achieved: the state is rendered practically comatose, and the executive, most often, has the upper hand.

Parallels can be drawn with 'elected autocracies', where elected governments use the very institutions integral to democracy to kill democracy itself and destroy civil liberties. We have heard nothing of the Lokpal since. The National Human Rights Commission has been made dormant. Investigation agencies are misused at the slightest opportunity, with action against activists, journalists, students, political opponents, or anyone who protests against the government. The Election Commission of India appears to have been clearly compromised. The Information Commission is almost non-functional. The list is long and disturbing. Others who can hold the executive accountable – academia, the press, and civil society – have also been systematically emasculated. Universities are under attack. An unbiased mainstream fourth estate in India no longer exists, and the media operates mostly as a propaganda machine. Civil society, too, is being slowly but surely strangled.

> Issues of pendency and infrastructure ought to be broached in appropriate forums and in high-level meetings to quell the growing acrimony between the executive and the higher judiciary

And a resurgent judiciary

Since the Supreme Court's decision in 2015 on the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, arguably, from the Court under the Chief Justices of India (CJI) Dipak Misra onwards, through the tenures of notably Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S.A. Bobde, the judiciary has remained passive, even submissive, to the executive. Consequently, not even a whisper emerged against the collegium. However, with the last three CJIs, i.e., Justice N.V. Ramana, Justice U.U. Lalit, and Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the Court is being more assertive and speaking in a non-aligned and confident voice. The executive seems to have recognised that the judiciary is the last bastion and final protector of civil liberties which it must overcome to claim its position as the most powerful entity in India.

History tells us that in the early years of modern India, decisions on judicial appointments were usually made on the advice of the CJI. Even if concurrence was not contemplated, for our founding fathers, an independent judiciary was non-negotiable. B.R. Ambedkar was unambiguous that appointments should have no political pressure and considerations, but that 'consultation with persons who are well-qualified ... to give proper advice' would be appropriate. This was followed through the Nehru-era.

Both the Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi governments attempted to manipulate the process. The collegium was created as a historical response to contemporaneous challenges, and succeeded in preventing the executive from hijacking judicial appointments. However, I maintain that 'judges appointing judges' is never a good idea, and a formal, structured appointments commission, with rules and accountability mechanisms, is the ideal way forward.

The NJAC law could have fixed this problem but it had many flaws, structured to undermine judicial independence, including giving a veto to so-called 'eminent persons'. The Court could have read down these flaws and at least set up a body that could incrementally improve with every selection round. But the Government refused to accede to any change or modification in the law. Eventually, the Court was forced to strike down the law completely, leaving us, once again, with the collegium system.

Fixing the system of appointments

For better or for worse, the collegium system is currently the law of the land, which everyone, including the executive, must adhere to. Instead, we see a defiant government refusing to cooperate, let alone consult, with the Supreme Court. Names proposed by the collegium are left pending for years, only to be eventually returned unceremoniously. The Government would also do well to think about its own culpability in allowing the problem of pendency and vacancies to fester. Pendency is caused majorly by poor judicial infrastructure, including an abysmally low number of judges. Court funding is at the mercy of the government, which is either particularly frugal or deliberately parsimonious in the matter. Similarly, vacancies in the higher judiciary are directly due to the Government's frequent refusal to accept names of persons who are out of favour, or who have not toed the Government's line.

All this points to the same thing repeatedly, i.e., the appointments system must be fixed. Pending a clear, rule-based system, even the existing collegium system can be improved, e.g., through well-defined criteria for appointments, transparency and accountability in selection, better methods of assessing candidates for elevation, and improved ways of ensuring diversity and representation. CJI Chandrachud, with two years in office, has a wonderful opportunity to make these changes, even as, in the long term, we strive for a well-structured and balanced legislation on a judicial commission that brings in transparency without compromising judicial independence.

Until then, issues of pendency and infrastructure should be broached in appropriate forums, such as the Chief Justices Conference, or meetings between the Prime Minister and the CJI. Press interviews or parliamentary addresses are not fit stages for this, and only serve to incite acrimony and reinforce the view that the Government does not have a cooperative spirit.

We can rest assured that the leadership at the Supreme Court appears to be in good hands now and is resisting the pressure and attacks in a dignified and restrained way. If the Government continues to stonewall, perhaps the judiciary should find ways to persuade or even compel the Government to follow the law of the land. This is the best that the Supreme Court can do to protect democracy, and for the sake of Indian citizens.

A conservation Bill that endangers forest rights

Saakshi Samant

is Communications Intern, Criminal Justice and Police Accountability Project in Bhopal

Mrinalini Ravindranath

is Research Head, Criminal Justice and Police Accountability Project in Bhopal

The expeditious passage of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 in the Rajya Sabha this winter session – this followed its passing in the Lok Sabha during the monsoon session – needs comment. The Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972 has safeguarded numerous species of wild animals and plants by prohibiting all forms of hunting and, more importantly, creating inviolate areas where wildlife conservation may be carried out. The amendment further invests in this conception of protected areas and species by bringing in newer species to be protected, augmenting the penal repercussions. While the aspects of protecting species from the wildlife trade, in line with international standards, have received thoughtful scrutiny by civil society, Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the impact of the criminal legal framework adopted by the WPA is less known.

Criminal laws and wildlife conservation

The need for criminal laws to assist wildlife conservation has remained unchallenged since its conception. From regulated hunting to complete prohibition and the creation of 'Protected Areas (PA)' where conservation can be undertaken without the interference of local forest-dwelling communities, State and Forest Department control over forests and the casteist underpinnings of conservation would not have been possible without criminal law. In this context, pitting wildlife species against communities as human-animal conflict has eluded the true cost of criminalisation under the WPA.

The recent move to increase penalties by four times for general violations (from ₹25,000 to ₹1,00,000) and from ₹10,000 to ₹25,000 for animals receiving the most protection should raise questions about the nature of policing that the WPA engenders.

> Regressive policing allowed by the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill and other forest legislation hinders the full and beneficial scope of the Forest Rights Act

Study based in Madhya Pradesh

A study by the Criminal Justice and Police Accountability Project (the CPA Project examined arrest records, first information reports (FIRs), offence records of the police and Forest Department in Madhya Pradesh) found that persons from oppressed caste communities such as Scheduled Tribes and other forest-dwelling communities form the majority of accused persons in wildlife-related crimes. The Forest Department was found to use the threat of criminalisation to force cooperation, apart from devising a system of using community members as informants and drawing on their loyalty by employing them on a daily wage basis. Cases that were filed under the WPA did not pertain solely to the comparatively serious offence of hunting; collecting wood, honey, and even mushrooms formed the bulk of prosecution in PAs. Over 95% of the cases filed by the Forest Department are still pending.

Hunting offences that were primarily filed against Schedule III and IV animals (wild boars) which have lesser protection than tigers and elephants formed over 17.47% of the animals 'hunted' between 2016-20. Among the animals hunted the highest, only one in top five belonged to Schedule I (peacock). Surprisingly, fish (only certain species relegated to Schedule I) formed over 8% of the cases filed. A whopping 133 cases pertaining to fishing (incorrectly classified as Schedule V species) were filed in the last decade in Madhya Pradesh.

Forest rights, individual and collective, as part of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) were put in place to correct the injustice meted out by forest governance laws in recognising forest-dependent livelihoods. The natural overlap of recognising forest rights in intended-as-inviolate PAs was quickly resolved by making the FRA subservient to the WPA, thereby impeding its implementation.

In the field work carried out, it was noticed that while individual forest rights in buffer zones of the Kanha National Park of Madhya Pradesh were recognised, the same cannot be said of collective rights over usage of forest resources, fishing, and protecting forest resources. Fishing, which forms an important part of subsistence for tribal communities, has come to be regularly criminalised as part of the WPA. In cases recorded by the Forest Department, as noted above, the very fact that these occurred in PAs led to the offence becoming punishable by three to seven years.

In a case from 2016 documented by the CPA Project, five men were apprehended by a range officer and beat guards as they sat across a fire with fish they had caught from the river nearby. The catch weighed less than 500 grams, yet the accused were charged with causing damage to a wildlife habitat under a host of WPA provisions. The case continues to remain pending in trial court.

Criminal cases filed by the department are rarely compounded since they are meant to create a 'deterrent effect' by instilling fear in communities. Fear is a crucial way in which the department mediates governance in protected areas, and its officials are rarely checked for their power. Unchecked discretionary policing allowed by the WPA and other forest legislations have stunted the emancipatory potential of the FRA. Any further amendments must take stock of wrongful cases (as in the case of fishing) and resultant criminalisation of rights and lives of forest dwelling communities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Border face-off

Going by the Indian Army's report, it is vexatious that the PLA intruded, yet again, into Arunachal Pradesh and indulged in rather primitive combat (Page 1, December 13). Recent rhetoric by the President of China at the 20th CPC National Congress, reportedly telling the PLA to 'focus all its energy on fighting in preparation for war', certainly raises suspicion that the skirmish has had the necessary political backing to occupy more Indian territory.

With the Indian Army significantly boosting its firepower and bolstering infrastructure along the LAC, the PLA's aggressive move could be to test the waters.

It augurs well that amidst heightened tensions along the LAC, the defence forces of both countries held a flag meeting to de-escalate the situation. The Indian Parliament must offer its full support to the soldiers and send a strong message to China that India cannot be used as a convenient punching bag.

Nalini Vijayaraghavan,
Thiruvananthapuram

Following the G-20 summit, there was some expectation of a thaw in the frosty India-China bilateral ties. Unfortunately, the new face-off in Arunachal Pradesh does take things back to square one. That the LAC will continue to remain tense even after several rounds of dialogue following the 2020 Galwan incident is a matter of profound concern.

Vidhya B. Ragunath,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

The 'clashes' indicate that this will be the new normal along the China border. Given the ambitious Chinese political goals, India can expect more skirmishes. Greater India-U.S. alignment seems to have irked China. India must continue to keep China as a primary threat in its strategic calculations. The G20 presents a very good opportunity for India to call out unilateral and coercive actions which are a common grievance faced by many member-states.

Vishnu Sasikumar,
Thiruvananthapuram

A spectacular run

Morocco's run in the FIFA 2022 World Cup has been incredible. The team's tactical discipline in defence, speed on the counterattack and a dash of goal-keeping flair have all contributed to its stellar show. Irrespective of whichever way the result goes in the semi-final,, the Atlas Lions have shown that the gap between the big and small teams is fast narrowing.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

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The rise of rural manufacturing

M. Suresh Babu

is Professor of Economics at IIT Madras and currently Adviser to Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council

There is growing evidence to suggest that the most conspicuous trend in the manufacturing sector in India has been a shift of manufacturing activity and employment from bigger cities to smaller towns and rural areas. This 'urban-rural manufacturing shift' has often been interpreted as a mixed bag, as it has its share of advantages that could transform the rural economy, as well as a set of constraints, which could hamper higher growth.

Given the size of the Indian economy and the need for balanced regional development, the dispersal of manufacturing activities is a welcome sign. However, the compulsions of global competition often extend beyond the considerations of low-wage production and depend on the virtues of 'conducive ecosystems' for firms to grow.

The movement of manufacturing away from urban locations was brought out by the Work Bank in a report a decade ago (Ghani, Ejaz et al (2012) "Is India's Manufacturing Sector Moving Away from Cities? Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank). This study investigated the urbanisation of the Indian manufacturing sector by "combining enterprise data from formal and informal sectors and found that manufacturing plants in the formal sector are moving away from urban areas and into rural locations, while the informal sector is moving from rural to urban locations". Their results suggested that higher urban-rural cost ratios caused this shift.

Recent data from the Annual Survey of Industries for 2019-20, shows that the rural segment is a significant contributor to the manufacturing sector's output. While 42% of factories are in rural areas, 62% of fixed capital is in the rural side. This is the result of a steady stream of investments in rural locations over the last two decades. In terms of output and value addition, rural factories contributed to exactly half of the total sector. In terms of employment, it accounted for 44%, but had only a 41% share in the total wages of the sector.

A steady stream of investments in rural locations over the last two decades has ensured that 42% of factories and 62% of fixed capital is in the rural side

Studies have documented several causes for the relatively steady rise and presence of rural manufacturing. Rural areas have generally been more attractive to manufacturing firms because wages, property, and land costs are all lower than in most metropolitan areas. Broadly there could be three explanations for this shift of manufacturing away from urban locations. First is the factory floorspace supply constraints. When locations get more urbanised and congested, the greater these space constraints are. However, the driving force behind such a shift is the continuing displacement of labour by machinery as a result of the continuous capital investments in new production technologies. In cities, factories just cannot be expanded as opposed to rural areas. Thus, increased capital intensity of production is one reason for this trend.

The second explanation hinges on the production cost differentials. Many firms experience substantially higher operating costs in cities than in rural areas, with inevitable consequences for the firm's profitability and competitiveness.

The third is the possibility of capital restructuring – an approach advocated by radical and Marxist geographers. According to this view, there is a tendency for growing capital accumulation and centralisation by large multi-plant corporations. Big firms deliberately shift production from cities to take advantage of the availability of less skilled, less unionised and less costly rural labour.

The shift in manufacturing activities from urban to rural areas has helped maintain the importance of manufacturing as a source of livelihood diversification in rural India. In the aftermath of trade liberalisation, import competition intensified for many Indian manufacturers, forcing them to look for cheaper methods and locations of production. One way to cut costs was to move some operations from cities to smaller towns, where labour costs are cheaper. This trend helped to make up for the loss of employment in some traditional rural industries. The growth of rural manufacturing, by generating new jobs, thus provides an economic base for the transition out of agriculture.

Challenges ahead

The shift towards rural manufacturing faces two major challenges. First, though firms reap the benefits of lower costs via lower rents, the cost of capital seems to be higher for firms operating on the rural side. This is evident from the shares in rent and interest paid. The rural segment accounted for only 35% of the total rent paid, while it had 60% of the total interest payments. The benefits reaped from one source seem to be offset by the increased costs on the other front.

Second, there exists an issue of "skills shortage" in rural areas as manufacturing now needs higher skilled workers to compete in the highly technological global 'new economy'. Manufacturers who depend only on low-wage workers simply cannot sustain their competitive edge for longer periods as this cost advantage vanishes over time. Manufacturers who need higher skilled labour find that rural areas cannot supply it in adequate quantities. This suggests the need for clear solutions to the problems of rural manufacturing and the most important is the provision of more education and skilling for rural workers. A more educated and skilled rural workforce will establish rural areas' comparative advantage of low wages, higher reliability and productivity and hasten the process of the movement out of agriculture to higher-earning livelihoods.

Caste politics looms large in Odisha

The BJD, which resisted wading into caste politics, has taken a plunge now

STATE OF PLAY

Satyasundar Barik
satyasundar.b@thehindu.co.in

The Biju Janata Dal, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, last week won the Padampur bye-election, dubbed a crucial poll before the 2024 elections, by a huge margin than anticipated.

While both the BJD and BJP had approached the election with innumerable public meetings and door-to-door campaigning, what made the bypoll different from the previous elections in the State was the parties' attempts to win the trust of different castes and communities.

At the peak of the campaign, Mr. Patnaik sanctioned two valuable pieces of land at Puri and Bhubaneswar, and ₹3 crore each for the construction of guesthouses, for peasant and weaver communities having sizeable vote bases in Padampur.

Stakes were so high for the bypoll that the five-time Chief Minister and one of the country's tallest regional leaders had apparently resorted to appeasing castes.

Head above water

In the last two decades, Mr. Patnaik has largely managed to keep his head above the water in electoral politics through a plethora of welfare measures and some smart election management.

Though the BJD candidate Barsha Singh Bariha won the poll by over 42,000 votes, political analysts believe the Odisha Chief Minister might have triggered a ferment in the State's political landscape where social justice movement (caste-led politics) had never found echo.

In the run-up to the polls, the ruling party was said to have failed to gauge the mood of two communities - Kultas and Mehers - who comprise 15% and 4% of the Padampur population respectively.

To overcome this, in an allegedly orchestrated move, a delegation of Kulta Samaj was facilitated a meeting with Mr. Patnaik. The group extracted a promise for a piece of land at Puri exclusively for the community members. Similarly, Meher Samaj was assured of a space in Bhubaneswar.

Apart from pandering to other castes, Mr. Patnaik also gave a ticket to Ms. Bariha - a member of the Binjhal tribal community that has a sizeable population in the State.

Mr. Patnaik taking refuge behind caste politics was understandable considering that a defeat here would have ensured momentum for the main Opposition BJP ahead of the 2024 Assembly and general elections. While BJP leaders grumbled about the violation of the model code of conduct by Mr. Patnaik, the saffron party could not protest as it did not want to be seen as a spoiler when popular caste sentiments were involved.

Former Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Srikant Jena, who champions the cause of Other Backward Classes, said Mr. Patnaik had opened a Pandora's Box. "It is not new that a caste will have a separate community centre in the holy town of Puri. But, it is for the first time that a caste has been provided a community space by the government during the time of election. Now, every caste will seek State patronage," Mr. Jena said.

Veteran journalist Rabi Das said, "it will be difficult for the BJD to deny other castes similar patronage that was provided to Kultas and Mehers. Opposition BJP and Congress will also not let the government off the hook easily."

Caste has never influenced the course of elections in Odisha as it has done in other States. However, the ruling party had recognised the role of castes in electoral politics. Before panchayat and civic body elections earlier this year, the BJD had submitted a memorandum to the Centre urging it to conduct a caste-based census. Subsequently, the party provided tickets to 27% OBC candidates in the polls.

'Double standards'

It is altogether a different matter that Biju Patnaik, father of the present Chief Minister, had not favoured the 27% reservation as per the Mandal Commission and moved the Supreme Court against its implementation.

The Opposition accused the BJD of double standards. "The Naveen Patnaik Government immediately implemented 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections in 2019 for admissions to medical colleges. What stopped him from doing the same on OBC reservation? While the neighbouring Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh Governments raised OBC reservations to 27%, the BJD is busy blaming the Centre and hiding behind the court's cap on reservation," Mr. Jena said.

With Odisha going to polls in less than 18 months, caste politics has started to resonate louder than before.

Morocco's magical run is a historically rare occurrence

Only two lower-rated teams have made it to the semifinals of any World Cup before

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

The business end of the FIFA World Cup - the knockout stage - has now been narrowed down to four contenders for the coveted trophy - Argentina, Croatia, France and Morocco. By the time you read this - one of the first two would have advanced to the finals. The two European teams left in the fray were finalists in the 2018 edition and Argentina, with 2,143 Elo points, was ranked second at the start of the tournament, behind favourites Brazil (2,169) who flattered to deceive. But the surprise package of Qatar 2022 has been the team from Morocco, which ranked 24th in Elo ratings and 22nd in FIFA's World Cup rankings prior to the start of the tournament.

Elo ratings are used to measure a team's relative strength. The Elo system assigns a rating to each nation, using the results of previous international games. It adds weight based on the opponent's strength and makes adjustments for the home team's advantage and the goal difference. For this analysis, the Elo ratings at the start of each World Cup were considered.

Morocco's surprising performance - it became the first African team to make the semifinals of the World Cup - is even more remarkable considering the fact that only two teams with lower Elo points ever made it this far. And that too, way back in 1938 and 1930. **Chart 1** shows the Elo ratings of the semifinalists in each edition of the World Cup. Morocco's 1,653 Elo points are just slightly ahead of Sweden's 1,651 points in 1938 and Yugoslavia's 1,591 points in the inaugural edition. Coached by Walid Regragui, the Moroccan team has been stingy in defence, conceding a solitary goal (which was an own-goal).

With scalps such as FIFA World No 2 Belgium in the first round, ex-World champions Spain in the pre-quarterfinals and Portugal in the quarterfinals, Morocco is primed to mount another upset but it faces a France that is defending its trophy and has thrived in Qatar as well. France had 2,005 Elo points at the start of the tournament but has since gained 41 points to become the fourth-ranked team, two slots below Argentina's rank (with 2,120 points as of Tuesday, down 23 points from its Elo rating at the start of Qatar 2022).

Argentina's starting Elo rating (2,143) is the second highest for any semifinalist, only behind Hungary (2,144) in the 1954 World Cup as **Table 2** shows. The Magical Magyars of 1954 with Ferenc Puskas, Sandor Kocsis and Nandor Hidegkuti dominated both the lead-up to the 1954 World Cup and the tournament itself but lost in the finals to West Germany. The Magyars had dominated the early part of the 1950s - between 1950 and '56, they played 69 games, won 58, drew 10 and lost just one game to West Germany in the 1954 finals.

Argentina, coached by Lionel Scaloni and featuring the talismanic Lionel Messi, on the other hand, managed a high starting Elo rating due to a strong 36-game unbeaten run before they were upset by Saudi Arabia in the first round.

As **Table 3** shows, Brazil were favourites to win in eight editions based on Elo points at their start, but went on to win only once after beginning with the highest Elo ratings - in 1962 - a feat matched by Spain in 2010 and Italy in 1938. Brazil of course has won the most tournaments - five, overall.

Table 4 shows the average Elo ratings of every edition's semifinalists. The 2022 edition ranked 14th among the 22 tournaments - the average was dragged down by the surprising and inspiring performance of Morocco. The 2014 edition in Brazil was the highest rated while the 2002 edition featuring two Asian sides, Turkey and South Korea, had the lowest average.

Coming to the four

A perusal of the semifinalists in each World Cup shows that Morocco is among the unlikeliest of the unlikely contenders in the fray. With an Elo rating of just 1,653 (at the start of the tournament), the African side has the lowest such rating for any semifinalist since 1938 when Sweden made it to the last four. The record for the lowest Elo rating is held by Yugoslavia from the first edition of the World Cup (1930) with 1,591 points. The data were sourced from eloratings.net

Chart 1 | The chart shows the Elo ratings of the semifinalists in each edition of the World Cup

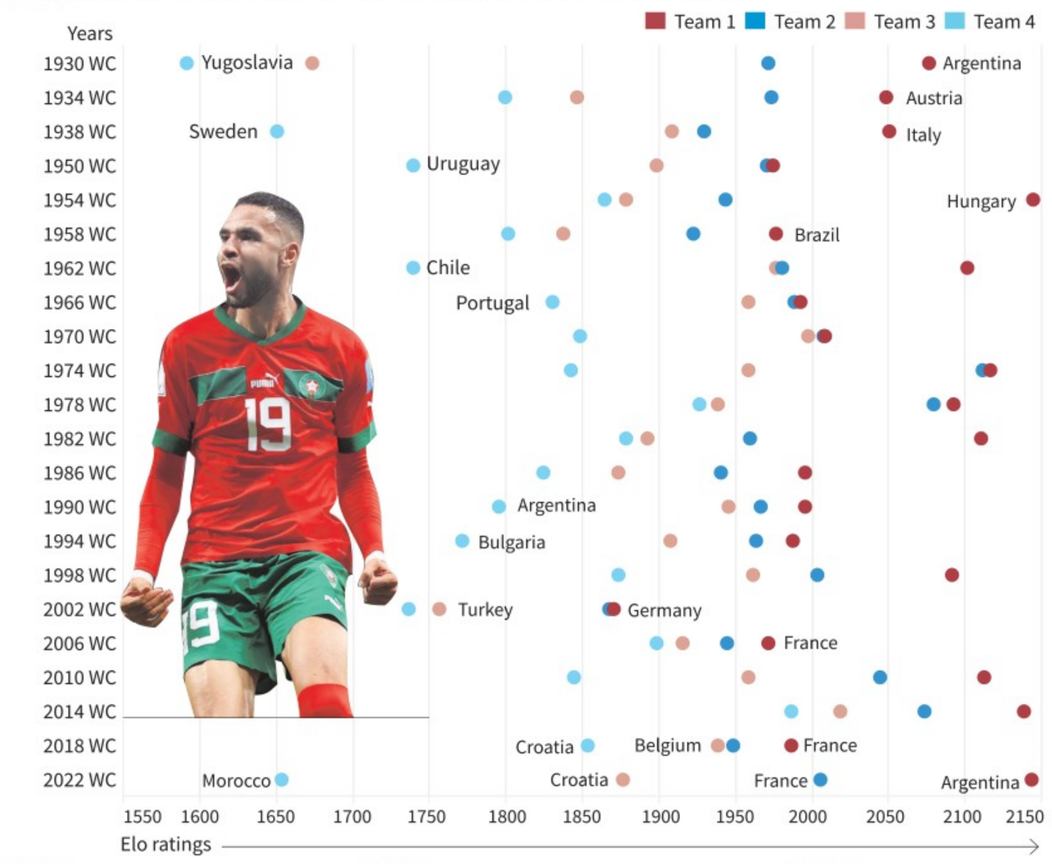

Table 2: The table shows top five Elo rated teams in the semifinals of World Cups. Argentina's Elo rating (2,143) is the second-highest for any semifinalist, only behind Hungary (2,144) in the 1954 World Cup

Pre-tournament favourites	ELO Rating	World Cup Year
Hungary	2144	1954
Argentina	2143	2022
Brazil	2138	2014
Brazil	2116	1974
Spain	2112	2010

Elo ratings are used to measure a team's relative strength. For this analysis, the Elo ratings at the start of each World Cup were considered

Table 3: The table shows the teams which were World Cup favourites (team with the highest Elo rating prior to the start of the tournament), the number of times they won as favourites and the times they won the trophy
*Includes two World Cups as "West Germany"

Team	Cup favourite	Wins as favourite	Overall Cup Wins
Brazil	8	1	5
Germany*	3	0	4
Hungary	2	0	0
France	2	0	2
England	2	0	1
Argentina	2	0	2
Spain	1	1	1
Netherlands	1	0	0
Italy	1	1	4

Table 4: The table shows the average Elo ratings of semifinalists in each World Cup. The 2014 edition (average Elo ratings: 2054) was the most competitive in those terms

Year	Average	Rank
2014 WC	2053.8	1
1978 WC	2008.8	2
1974 WC	2006.8	3
2010 WC	1989.5	4
1998 WC	1982.0	5
1970 WC	1965.0	6
2022 WC	1919.3	14

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 14, 1972

Astronauts pick up orange soil on the moon

Houston, Dec.13: Scientist-astronaut Jack Schmitt discovered orange soil on the moon yesterday and sent scientists in Houston into a mild frenzy of excitement.

Schmitt himself–the first scientist to visit the moon–was equally excited.

"It's orange", he exclaimed as he prodded the soil on the rim of a crater named Shortly. "It sure is–its crazy....fan-tas-tic, sports fans"

Schmitt and Eugene Cernan immediately began digging a trench and taking samples of the unique soil which appeared to be of volcanic origin.

The orange soil was found by Schmitt more than halfway through his second Apollo 17 excursion on the moon with Cernan.

"It's been oxidised" Schmitt announced. "It's just like an oxidised desert soil"

He called it a fumarole which is the result of a volcanic gas venting.

Dr. Robin Brett, the Space Agency's chief geochemist said one the main reasons the astronauts were sent to Shortly crater was because it looked volcanic.

Tiny specks of orange have been found on rocks brought back by Apollos 14, 15 and 16, but this is the first large deposit of orange material discovered.

The action of a fumarole–the final dying gasp of a volcanic eruption– releases steam and other volatiles which alter the existing minerals in the area.

In this way, iron compounds can be changed to rust.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 14, 1922

Anthrax

London, Dec. 12: The international Advisory Committee on Anthrax have adopted the report of the sub-committee which recommends exemption from compulsory disinfection of wool and hides of animals of countries where raw material has not caused cases of anthrax being imported into the country wither goods are exported for five years unless anthrax spore be bacteriologically discovered in raw materials. The exemption is extended also to countries where no endemic anthrax prevails among animals or which applied strict measures for stamping out the outbreak at the source.

From Page One

Chinese tried to change LAC status quo: Rajnath

After the incident, the local commander in the area held a flag meeting with his counterpart on December 11 to discuss the issues, Mr. Singh said in the statement made in both Houses of Parliament.

"The Chinese side was asked to refrain from such actions and maintain peace and tranquillity along the border. The issue was also taken up with the Chinese side through diplomatic channels," he added. *The Hindu* first reported on December 12 that a clash occurred as a very large PLA patrol of around 600 soldiers tried to transgress the LAC in the area and some injured soldiers are currently being treated at a hospital in Guwahati. While the number of injured on the Chinese side wasn't available, several defence sources said it was higher than that on the Indian side. In a short statement on the face-off on Monday evening, the Army, while noting that there are areas of differing perception on the LAC, said both sides immediately disengaged from the area after the scuffle.

PLA blames India for latest face-off at LAC

That was where the troops were "blocked by the Indian Army illegally crossing" the line, he said. "We ask the Indian side to strictly control and restrain frontline forces and work with the Chinese side to maintain peace and tranquillity on the border," he said. "Our troops' response is professional, firm and standard, which has helped to stabilise the situation. Both sides have been under disengagement since then." In a separate comment, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin at a daily briefing said the "the current border situation between China and India is generally stable" and "both sides have maintained unimpeded communication on border-related issues through diplomatic and military channels".

Aggressive posture

The clash has underlined the growing risks of "strategic miscalculation" along the border, a former senior Indian official said, with China's increasingly aggressive posture wrongly discounting India's willingness to respond.

The PLA's recent LAC transgressions reflected an aggressive posture, seen since 2013, as well as raised the question "whether there is a potential for strategic miscalculation by China after the military stand-off in Ladakh", former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to China Vijay Gokhale wrote in a newspaper published on Tuesday by Carnegie India on China's India policy. "Two Chinese assumptions – that India will not intentionally escalate militarily in response to low-level coercion and that it will not form alliances against the coercer– should be weighed against the changes in Indian strategic thinking since 2020," he said.

"First, the ambiguity that prevailed in India's decision-making and strategic circles as to whether China is a partner or a rival has been replaced by strategic clarity. China's behaviour is now perceived as adversarial... Second, the idea of strategic restraint has been redefined. This has involved a change in risk-taking appetite among the political class, as a result of which the Snow Leopard counter-operation at Rezang La/Rechin La was carried out in August 2022," he said, referring to India's countermoves in the south of Pangong Lake which pushed China to subsequently disengage on the north bank. "This was an intentional escalation by India that was not anticipated by China," he noted. "Thus the Chinese assumption that there will be no backlash to low-level coercion on the LAC because India is risk-averse may no longer be valid."

Panel for internal quota for SCs set up

In its meeting held on November 17, the State Cabinet had decided to constitute a sub-committee for classification of internal reservation among SCs. The Justice A.J. Sadashiva Commission report, which was submitted in 2012, recommended reclassification of the SCs for equitable distribution of reservation. The Congress has been accused of not taking a decision on the report when it was in power between 2013 and 2018.A couple of days ago, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "Once we come back to power, Congress will take everyone into confidence, and send a recommendation to the Central government to implement the Justice Sadashiva Commission report." The BJP government has already taken a decision to hike reservation for SCs from 15% to 17%, and for Scheduled Tribes from 3% to 7%. But the decision has not been implemented.

Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said since the decision on reservation hike is expected to receive legal scrutiny, the State government would explore alternatives such as either introducing a Bill in the winter session of the legislature in December or passing of a resolution unanimously by the State legislature urging the Central government to introduce a constitutional amendment to increase reservation for SCs and STs. In the Indra Sawhney case, the Supreme Court capped the reservation at 50%, whereas it stands at 56% in Karnataka now.

The State government has decided to seek more than 50% reservation under Scheduled 9 of the Constitution through a constitutional amendment, to counter legal challenges, on the lines of the Tamil Nadu government, which has increased reservation to 69%. It is learnt that the Congress is wary of the BJP getting political mileage on the internal reservation issue.

Uproar in Parliament over India-China clash

Opposition MPs stage walkout after being denied discussion on border situation in both Houses; Congress president Kharge says government has been a mute spectator to Chinese transgressions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition staged a walkout in both Houses of Parliament on Tuesday after being denied a discussion on the recent clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers in the Tawang sector in Arunachal Pradesh.

As the Lok Sabha convened for the day, Speaker Om Birla directed that Question Hour be taken up.

However, members of the Opposition, led by Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary and Gaurav Gogoi and DMK's T.R. Baalu, demanded a discussion on the border situation.

At this, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh would make a statement on the matter at 12 p.m. The Opposition members, however, demanded an immediate discussion. Mr. Gogoi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should make a statement.

As the Opposition remained unrelenting, Mr. Birla said if the members wanted a discussion, they should come through the Business Advisory Committee and adjourned the house till 12 p.m.

Up in arms: Opposition leaders walk out of the Rajya Sabha after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's address on Tuesday. PTI

After the House reconvened and Mr. Singh made his statement, the Opposition again demanded a discussion.

They staged a walkout when the Speaker denied their demand.

Din in Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha, too, witnessed similar scenes. Protests demanding a debate on the border situation began right from the moment the House sat for the day.

In response to the protests, the Defence Minister's statement, which was originally scheduled for 2 p.m., was brought forward to 12.30 p.m. The House was then adjourned till 12 p.m.

'Govt. oblivious'

When it reconvened, Congress president and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge moved a motion under Rule 267 demanding suspension of business to discuss the border clash. "Our national security and territorial integrity is being impinged upon by brazen Chinese transgressions as the government remains a mute spectator," Mr. Kharge said.

The Chinese, he pointed out, had built a building of the divisional headquarters of the People's Liberation Army, a garrison, and weapon shelters for artillery, anti-aircraft guns and armoured carriers near the Pangong lake area, which was being continuously ignored by the government.

"The government also remains oblivious to the Chinese construction of a new radome, two high-frequency microwave towers and other ongoing construction in the area," he said.

Mr. Kharge also invoked Mr. Modi's June 20, 2020 statement of "no one has entered into our territory". This was met with strong reactions from the Treasury Benches.

The uproar resumed after the Defence Minister's statement when Deputy Chairman Harivansh, citing four precedents, said clarifications cannot be allowed on "sensitive issues".

His comments drew jeers from the Opposition members, who stood up in protest. They raised slogans against the government and later staged a walkout.

Addressing the media outside the House, Mr. Kharge said, "The Defence Minister himself walked out without replying to any of our questions, so what choice do we have?"

Opposition reminds govt. of Nehru's stand during 1962 war

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Opposition members, who were denied the opportunity to seek clarifications in the Rajya Sabha to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's statement on Tuesday on the India-China stand-off, reminded the Modi government about the 1962 India-China war, when Parliament discussed the incursions at length. The then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, had rejected outrightly the idea of holding a secret session at that time, the Opposition said.

In contrast, the present government had resolutely denied the House an opportunity to debate the India-China issue since the first incursion in April 2020, the Opposition parties said.

Deputy Chairman Harivansh cited four precedents between 2007 and 2009 when queries to the government's statement were barred considering the sensitivity of the issues at hand.

To this RJD member Manoj K. Jha said: "Deputy Chairman Harivansh cited various precedents. But how can we forget the 1962 parliamentary session when the India-China conflict was debated in the House? This government lives in brazen denial of the India-China conflict."

The debate that Mr. Jha was referring to took place on November 8, 1962, in the Lok Sabha when Jawaharlal Nehru declined to accede to Congress member L.M. Singhvi's request to convene a "secret session".

Nehru said, "Sir, I received a request to that effect from some members. I gave careful consideration to it. I think that, at the present moment, it would not be desirable to have a secret session. If it is desirable in future, I shall make my submission to you. The issues before the House are of high interest to the whole country. Right at the beginning to ask for a secret session would have a bad effect on the country. I am sure hon. members would agree."

Nehru went on to detail the government response, including its shortcomings. He also submitted a White Paper containing all the correspondence between India and China on the boundary issue. He also conceded in the course of the discussion, "It is perfectly true that we were not prepared to face two or three divisions of the Chinese Army descending upon the forces there."

Falsehoods being spread about benefits of demonetisation: MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra on Tuesday accused the BJP of spreading "falsehoods" about the benefits of demonetisation with no regard for actual data.

Participating in a discussion on the Supplementary Demand for Grants in the Lok Sabha, she said: "You have not achieved the goals of a cashless economy. You have not achieved the goals of phasing out fake currency even after six years of your *dhamaka* announcement. Currency in circulation has doubled from ₹18 lakh crore in November 2016 to ₹32 lakh crore in November 2022."

Mr. Moitra said every February, the government had the people believe that the country's economy was going great guns. "This falsehood flies for eight to 10 months and the truth comes out limping after it," she said. "We are in December and the government says it needs another ₹3.26 lakh crore above the Budget estimates."

'Restore fellowship'

Participating in the discussion, Bahujan Samaj Party member Danish Ali and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen member Syed Imitiaz Jaleel sought the restoration of the pre-matric scholarship for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Maulana Azad Fellowship for minorities. "For prosperity of the country, everyone needs to be taken along. How can you leave minorities behind? How will minority students study, how will they progress if this fellowship is stopped," Mr. Ali said.

House panel flags 'casual approach' of govt. over setting up disability centres

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

With just 55 to 60 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRC) made functional so far out of the targeted 269 in designated districts, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment has said that it feels the Union government is "somewhat casual" in its approach to complete this task.

It said the government should lay down a proper road map with timelines for the execution of the work needed to establish the DDRCs in every district of the country as targeted.

However, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, in response to a question by Congress member T.N. Prathapan, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Pratima Bhoumik said that as of December 8, 269 DDRCs had been "set up" across the country.

Make amends: The panel said it expects the scheme's revised guidelines to correct its 'inherent deficiencies'. FILE PHOTO

The reply defined DDRCs set up as ones that have been given "funds at least once".

Inherent deficiencies

The committee, in its report on the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday, said it had expected that the revised guidelines for the scheme would correct its "inherent deficiencies" and clear the path for setting up the targeted number of DDRCs.

"However, the concern expressed by the committee is not likely to get addressed even now after the revision of guidelines, as the department in its latest replies, has still not provided the current status of DDRCs," the committee said.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had told the panel that it had increased the number of disabilities covered from seven to 21 in 2018 and that the revised guidelines for setting up the rest of the DDRCs would be implemented in 2022-23.

But the panel in its report tabled in the Winter Session, noted, "The committee is unable to understand as to how the department would process the proposals received from States/ UTs unless the guidelines are implemented." It also expressed "strong doubt" about the early implementation of the revised guidelines as promised by the government.

Moreover, the panel said that the government's defence of planning to set up model DDRCs for others to emulate "again has set no timelines for preparation of Model DDRCs features".

NASA keen on sharing its expertise with ISRO for Gaganyaan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is looking forward to sharing data and expertise with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for India's upcoming Gaganyaan, human space flight programme.

Kathryn Lueders, Associate Administrator, Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD) at NASA told reporters here on Tuesday after delivering a talk on Future of Human Space Exploration, that the US space agency will share its experience in the human space flight regime.

The first unmanned trial flight for Gaganyaan project is being planned by the end of 2023 or early 2024

"One of the reasons I am here is to establish and build on the NASA-ISRO Human Space Flight Working Group. Right now we are just working on exchange of data, we can share any experience we have in the human space flight regime. But part of the next step is for us to identify what may be ways for us to share training protocols and our data that we both get from human space flight perspective," said Ms. Lueders.

Bi-annual meet

She added that NASA was looking forward to the next bi-annual meet between the two space agencies in February next year.

"One of the things which we really are trying to do is to look at what are the next concrete steps that we can work together from human space flight perspective and other potential collaborations across the board. We have these two space-faring nations and we really feel like it's important for us to be working together," she added.

According to ISRO, the Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3-day mission and bringing them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters.

The first trial (uncrewed flight) for Gaganyaan is being planned by the end of 2023 or early 2024. This will be followed by sending Vyom Mitra, a humanoid and then with the crew onboard.

'Work progressing well'

The two space agencies are also working on the NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) Mission which will measure the Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses providing information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater.

Ms. Lueders said work on the NISAR was progressing well.

Farmers heading to G20 meeting venue detained in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police on Tuesday detained farmer leader Kurubur Shanthakumar and his associates, while they were heading to the G20 summit meeting venue in Devanahalli to stage a protest.

Mr. Shanthakumar and his team were planning for a black flag protest to draw the attention of the State government to address farmers' issues.

The State government should resolve the issue of sugarcane growers who have been protesting for the last 22 days, he said, adding that the demand is also to cancel the Cibil score for crop loan and issue interest-free loan for farmers and education loans to their children.

Heated arguments ensued between the police and the farmers when they were stopped at the Hebbal flyover in the afternoon

The farmers were agitated when the police did not give any reason about why they were stopped. Later, a senior police officer reached the spot and informed the group that they will be taken into custody under preventive detention. The police later took the farmers to KSRP grounds situated in Koramangala and released them later.

Another team of police detained farmers protesting peacefully at Freedom Park.

India hits out at OIC chief for visit to LoC from Pakistani side

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday strongly condemned the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) saying the organisation had "lost its credibility".

The comment from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came after OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha visited the Line of Control (LoC) from the Pakistani side and was briefed by the situation by the Pakistan military.

Mr. Taha also offered prayers and met the people, who were allegedly affected by shelling from the Indian side.

"Let me reiterate that OIC has no *locus standi* in matters related to Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral and inalienable part of India. Any attempt of interference and meddling in India's internal affairs by the OIC and its Secretary-General is completely unacceptable," MEA Official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in response to the visit of Mr. Taha.

Arindam Bagchi

Mr. Bagchi said the OIC Secretary-General had become a "mouthpiece" of Pakistan and that the organisation had been taking "blatantly communal, partisan and factually incorrect approach to issues".

'Promoting terrorism'

"We hope that he would refrain from becoming a partner in carrying out the nefarious agenda of Pakistan of promoting cross-border terrorism into India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir," said the Indian spokesperson.

Earlier Mr. Taha, who hails from Chad, had met the Pakistani leadership, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

India-U.K. FTA talks restart with Goyal-Badenoch meet

The dialogue for a trade pact has been stalled over multiple issues, which include political instability in the U.K.; the Ministers have urged the negotiation teams to iron out differences

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his British counterpart Kemi Badenoch held the sixth round of discussion on the India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which had been stalled over multiple issues, including reported Indian demand for greater number of student visas and political turmoil in the U.K.

Ms. Badenoch, who arrived on Monday, held a round of meeting with Mr. Goyal soon after landing here and continued extensive discussion till Tuesday, amidst indications that the official negotiators would meet to deliberate on the landmark trade pact in the coming new year.

"Held a bilateral meeting with the U.K. Secretary of State for International Trade Kemi Badenoch. With the sixth round of India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement negotiations on, discussed how both sides can arrive at a mutually beneficial agreement to boost trade and investment ties," said Mr. Goyal.

Clearing roadblocks: Piyush Goyal greeting his British counterpart Kemi Badenoch in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

'Respect each other'

"The Ministers urged the negotiating teams to work together with an aim to iron out the differences in the spirit of mutual accommodation based on the principle of reciprocity and respect for each other's sensitivities, for a balanced, mutually beneficial, fair and equitable outcome," stated an official from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that described the discussion as satisfactory.

Mr. Goyal presented flagship projects of the government such as National Infrastructure Pipeline, Development Finance Institution and privatisation of non-strategic sectors PSUs, and urged the businesses in India and the U.K. to "take advantages of these initiatives for economic prosperity". The trade pact ran into trouble because of political instability in the U.K. when Liz Truss resigned after a brief stint of 44 days which also jeopardised the Deepavali deadline for the trade deal that was announced by Boris Johnson during his visit to Delhi last April.

The two-day discussion therefore marks a positive turn in negotiations as the two sides came together ending doubts over a lingering deadlock.

Watch: Rishi Sunak as UK PM | Will the India-UK FTA finally happen? | Worldview with Suhasini Haidar
bit.ly/3uNoO32

INBRIEF

Nitish Kumar hints at passing political mantle to Tejashwi

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday dropped further hints that he was looking forward to passing on the mantle to his young deputy Tejashwi Yadav, leaders emerging from a meeting of legislators of the ruling mahagathbandhan said in Patna. The JD(U) supremo, once again, ruled himself out as a prime ministerial candidate for the next Lok Sabha polls even as he maintained that a "united Opposition" could defeat the Narendra Modi-led BJP in 2024.

Man held for making threat calls to Pawar's bungalow

A 45-year-old man from Patna was arrested by the Mumbai police for allegedly making threat calls to Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar's bungalow 'Silver Oak' at the upmarket Bhulabhai Desai Road in Mumbai. N. Soni was arrested by the police team in Patna and was brought to Mumbai. The police registered a case against him under Sections 294 (obscene act) and 506-II (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and arrested him.

Aurobindo inspired many generations, left his mark wherever he went: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUCHERRY

Hailing Sri Aurobindo's life and work as reflecting the oneness and cultural preeminence of the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the poet-philosopher's modern thoughts, higher consciousness and uncompromising nationalism should inspire India's leadership role in the world in greater measure.

In his address after virtually releasing a commemorative coin and postage stamp to mark the ongoing 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Aurobindo at a function hosted at the Kamban Kalaiarangam, Mr. Modi likened the country to an immortal seed which may be suppressed a little under adverse circumstances, even wither a little, but cannot die.

Narendra Modi paying tributes on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo through video conference. S.S. KUMAR

"India is the most refined idea of human civilisation, the most natural voice of humanity. India has a pivotal role in tackling challenges faced by the world today," Mr. Modi said. He noted that in the life of Sri Aurobindo, who was born in Bengal but spent most of his life in Gujarat and Puducherry, one could get the fundamental philosophy of India's soul and its development journey. The poet-philosopher had left an imprint wherever he went and inspired generations, Mr. Modi said.

Sri Aurobindo, along with Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi, were the three icons whose lives and contributions around the same period shaped the destiny of the nation, the PM noted.

No panel formed to consider SC status for Dalit converts: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has not formed any commission to study granting of Scheduled Caste (SC) status to Dalit converts, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A. Narayanaswamy said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Mr. Narayanaswamy was responding to a question by YSRCP member Margani Bharat on "whether the government had constituted a commission to study giving SC status for Dalit converts".

The response came despite the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on October 6 publishing a notification regarding the formation of a Commission of Inquiry to examine the demand for providing SC status to Dalit people of religions other than those notified in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

While saying "no" to the YSRCP member, the government, however, pointed to the Gazette notification on the formation of the commission.

The first term of reference for the commission in the notification was outlined as follows: "To examine the matter of according Scheduled Caste status to new persons, who claim to historically have belonged to the Scheduled Castes, but have converted to religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential Orders issued from time to time under Article 341 of the Constitution."

The matter of according SC status to Dalits who have converted to Christianity or Islam is pending in the Supreme Court.

SC to decide if Sena faction dispute needs to be referred to larger, seven-judge Bench

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After hearing the submissions, both factions urged the court to refer the case to a large Bench

A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will consider on January 10 whether the political battle between Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde over the "real" Shiv Sena needs to be referred to a larger Bench of seven judges.

On August 23, a three-judge Bench of the court had referred the dispute to a Constitution Bench of five judges.

On Tuesday, the five-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud heard preliminary submissions made by both factions, who urged the court to refer the case to a larger Bench.

The lawyers argued that the three-judge Bench had raised "important constitutional questions relating to interpretation of Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution pertaining to disqualification, as well as the powers of the Speaker and the Governor and the power of judicial review".

It had highlighted gaps in the court's 2016 five-judge Constitution Bench judgment in the Nabam Rebia case which had related to the power of the Speaker/Deputy Speaker to initiate disqualification proceedings, when proceedings for his own removal from office had been initiated. The 2016 judgment had held that a Speaker/Deputy Speaker should refrain from deciding the disqualification of MLAs for defection under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution while he himself was facing the prospect of removal.

The 2016 judgment was meant as a safeguard against a Speaker using the disqualification proceedings of legislators for his own political ends.

A Speaker, under the threat of losing his position, may choose to disqualify the MLAs to alter the composition of the House in his favour, thus securing his position at their cost.

The Bench, which had referred the Maharashtra case to a Constitution Bench in August, had framed 10 questions of law.

New Delhi airport's inadequate security infrastructure flagged

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

If the airport decides to increase flights, it should also increase its infrastructure, says BCAS official

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport's security infrastructure "has frozen over time" and failed to keep pace with the increase in flights and passengers, a top Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) official said on a day a Parliamentary panel announced its decision to summon the airport's Chief Executive Officer, Videh Kumar Jaipuriar.

"Security equipment can only clear a fixed number of passengers per hour. So, if the airport decides to increase flights, it should also increase its security furniture. But that has frozen over time, while the number of passengers has kept increasing," a senior BCAS official told *The Hindu*. The official said that the airport must match the number of flights with the infrastructure, instead of increasing flights without the requisite infrastructure or focusing on adding "coffee and tea shops". The average number of flights per hour from Terminal 3 during peak hours is between 19 to 21, while officials say 13 x-ray machines currently available are capable of handling passengers for up to 15 flights per hour only.

The failure to address the gaps has now led to long queues at entry gates, check-in desks and the pre-embarkation security check area, so much so that passengers have complained of missing their flights. This was among the glaring gaps highlighted during Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's visit to Terminal 3 at IGI Airport on Monday.

Assam Accord: Constitution Bench lists citizenship case for January 10

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench on Tuesday listed for January 10, 2023 a series of long-pending petitions challenging Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 that allows citizenship to illegal immigrants, mostly from neighbouring Bangladesh, who entered Assam before March 1971. These petitions had been lying dormant while the court had gone ahead and monitored the publication of the final Assam NRC list in August 2019 and the government had enacted the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Section 6A was a special provision inserted into the Act in furtherance of a Memorandum of Settlement called the 'Assam Accord' signed on August 15, 1985 by the then Rajiv Gandhi government with the leaders of the Assam Movement to preserve and protect Assamese culture, heritage, linguistic and social identity. The Accord came after a six-year agitation by the All Assam Students Union to identify and deport illegal immigrants.

> Whether people who have acquired citizenship can now be denied citizenship... this question should be heard as a preliminary issue
>
> **INDIRA JAISING**
> Senior advocate

Under Section 6A, foreigners who had entered Assam before January 1, 1966, and been "ordinarily resident" in the State, would have all the rights and obligations of citizens. Those who had entered the State between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971 would have the same rights and obligations except that they would not be able to vote for 10 years.

Petitions were filed challenging the "discriminatory" nature of Section 6A in granting citizenship to immigrants, illegal ones at that. The petitioners, including Assam Public Works and others, argued that the special provision was in violation of Article 6 of the Constitution that fixed the cut-off date for granting citizenship to immigrants at July 19, 1948. One of the petitioners, Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha, a Guwahati-based civil society organisation, had sought the updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam on the basis of the 1951 NRC and not on the electoral rolls of March 1971.

In 2015, a three-judge Bench of the court had referred the case to a Constitution Bench.

On Tuesday, appearing before the five-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Chandrachud, senior advocate Indira Jaising said the case concerned people who have been citizens for a period of 40 years. "Whether people who have been acquired citizenship can now be denied citizenship... this question should be heard as a preliminary issue," Ms. Jaising, for one of the parties, urged the court. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, also for a party, said the focus of the case was the validity of Section 6A, and that should be decided first. Mr. Dave also highlighted questions raised about Section 3 of the 1955 Act concerning children born in India to parents, one of whom is an Indian and the other a foreigner.

The court asked the lawyers to meet and finalise the issues and present them before the Bench on January 10.

MISSING

A woman named Bharathi, 36/22 D/o Lalaji Bhai, Rajkot, Gujarath, seen in the photo above, has gone missing from an institution 'Immanuel Kripa' in Kodakara Police Station Limit on 14-11-2022 at 05.00 hrs and a case has been registered as Crime 790/22 u/s 57 of KP Act of Kodakara Police Station, Thrissur Rural, Kerala State regarding the disappearance. Any one having any information about Bharathi is requested to immediately inform the nearest Police Station or Police Control Room or the numbers given below

Mark info: 36 years, Height: 140 cm., Mental Retarded, White and Chubby body, Cropped hair; Two upper front teeth are missing, Speak Hindi fluently, knows English and Malayalam.

If any details please contact:

Kodakara Police Station: 0480 2720287
Sub-Inspector of Police, Kodakara Police Station: 9497980537.
Inspector of Police, Kodakara Police Station : 9497962533

02971/F2/2022/I&PRD

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Admission to Ph.D. Programme for the Academic Year 2023-24

National Institute of Immunology (NII) invites applications for its Ph.D. programme. Cutting-edge research at NII encompasses broad interdisciplinary areas of **Immunology, Infectious and Chronic Disease Biology, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Chemical Biology, Structural Biology and Computational Biology.**

Important dates:
Online Application begins : 15.12.2022
Online Application closing : 20.01.2023
NII-2023 Entrance Examination : 26.02.2023
Interviews with Short-listed candidates : 6th to 13th June, 2023

The details of the application process are available at http://www.nii.res.in
Women candidates fulfilling the requirements are encouraged to apply

INBRIEF

HC refuses urgent hearing for Nawab Malik's plea for bail

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday refused to grant an urgent hearing to senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Nawab Malik's plea for bail on the basis of a medical emergency in connection with a money laundering case by the ED. Senior advocate Amit Desai representing Mr. Malik appeared before a Single Bench of Justice M.S. Karnik and said only one of his kidneys was functional and he required an urgent transplant. ED's counsel Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh said Mr. Malik was being treated at a private hospital since May 2022. To this, the court said there was no urgency. The court directed the ED to reply to the plea.

Will remove Public Safety Act if NC comes to power: Omar

Former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said his party would not contest the upcoming Assembly poll on the plank of roads, electricity and water but over the issues cropping up post August 5, 2019, when the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional position. "Public Safety Act (PSA) is only in J&K and nowhere in the country. When the NC comes to power, we will remove PSA. We will keep land and jobs for locals," Mr. Abdullah said. "It's obvious that Assembly polls will not be contested on roads, electricity and water but over issues cropping up after August 5, 2019," he said.

No manual scavenging deaths in last three years, says Centre

The Union government on Tuesday told the Lok Sabha that no person had died from manual scavenging in the country in the last three years (2019 to 2022). The Centre added that a total of 233 people had died "due to accidents while undertaking hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks" in this time period. According to data presented by the government in response to a question from BJP Durga Das Uikey, a total of 48 people had died because of hazardous cleaning of sewers in 2022 alone so far - the maximum in Haryana (13), followed by Maharashtra (12), and Tamil Nadu (10).

Four Gujarat Ministers face criminal cases, says report

Four out of the 17 Ministers in the new BJP government in Gujarat face criminal cases, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). As many as 16 ministers including Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel are *crorepatis* or own assets worth ₹1 crore or more, it said. ADR, which works for electoral reforms, said the report is based on self-sworn affidavits of MLAs. Minister with the highest declared assets is Balvantsinh Rajput, who owns assets worth ₹372.65 crore, the report said. Bachubhai Khabad has the lowest declared assets of ₹92.85 lakh. Six Ministers have studied between 8th and 12th standard while Mr. Patel, 60, holds a diploma in civil engineering. PTI

Only one-fourth of sanctioned solar projects have taken off, says Minister

Some solar parks were cancelled due to slow progress; other hurdles include difficulty in acquiring land, environmental issues and halt in economic activity owing to pandemic, New and Renewable Energy Minister R.K. Singh tells Rajya Sabha

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Union government has so far sanctioned solar projects with a capacity of nearly 39,000 MW but only a fourth have actually been commissioned so far, reveal figures presented by R.K. Singh, Minister for New and Renewable Energy, in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Under the 'Scheme for Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects', a total of 57 solar parks of aggregate capacity of 39,285 MW were sanctioned until November-end. However, only solar power projects of 10,027 MW have been commissioned in these parks.

Tapping the sun: Fifty-seven solar parks with a total capacity of 39,285 MW were sanctioned until November-end. REUTERS

Citing reasons for the shortfall, Mr. Singh said some solar parks had been cancelled due to their "slow progress". The key challenges in this scheme included hurdles in acquisition of land with clear title; a "mismatch" in the time taken to set up a project and the infrastructure to route the power produced to the grid; "environmental issues" and the halt in economic activity due to COVID-19, he said.

Bird habitat affected

In his reference to "environmental issues," Mr. Singh mentioned the "Great Indian Bustard (GIB) issue". In recent years, the habitat of the GIB – a critically endangered species that number less than 200 in Rajasthan – has been encroached upon by solar power projects, particularly by transmission lines that endanger the bird.

The Supreme Court, last April, directed power companies to lay underground cables in solar parks in Rajasthan though few companies complied with the order.

The New and Renewable Energy Ministry told the Supreme Court in December 2021 that laying underground cables were impractical and would greatly raise the cost of solar power.

India had committed to installing 1,75,000 MW of renewable energy by 2022 of which 1,00,000 MW was to be solar power. As of October 2022, 61,000 MW of solar power was installed, according to numbers presented in Parliament.

Caste census is imperative, Oppn. MPs stress in RS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha on Tuesday took up the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022 to move Gond community from SC list to ST list in four districts of Uttar Pradesh for consideration.

The Bill received support from across party lines with Opposition MPs insisting that there were several other communities in need of being included and that a caste-census was imperative to set things right for all such communities that have so far been left out.

Pramod Tiwari of the Congress kicked off the discussion on the Bill extending his support for it but asking the Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda to explain why no sub-castes of the Gond community were being included in the ST list in the Bill, why the Gond community was being included only in four districts and not the entire State, and why so many other communities agitating for ST status were being left out even now.

"Have you accepted that ST people will never progress enough to relocate to other districts and cities for business, jobs? So why not all of U.P.?" he asked the Minister, while adding that he was supporting the Bill.

Stan Swamy's computer was hacked since 2014, says U.S. forensic firm

Sonam Saigal
MUMBAI

Late Father Stan Swamy's computer was compromised by the same attacker who hacked the computers of co-accused Rona Wilson and Surendra Gadling, in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case, reveals a U.S.-based digital forensic firm, Arsenal Consulting.

Fr. Swamy, 82, a Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Ranchi on October 8, 2020. While in judicial custody, he died at a private hospital while being treated for COVID-19 on July 5, 2021.

The Chelsea-based company was engaged by Fr. Swamy's defence team to analyse electronic evidence seized from his home by the Pune police. On February 10, 2021, the same consultancy found that a hacker controlled Mr. Wilson's computer for 22 months to plant documents.

As per the report released on December 11, 2022, Arsenal's analysis divulged that Fr Stanislaus Lourduswamy's computer was compromised from October 19, 2014 till his computer was seized by Pune police on June 12, 2019. "The attacker responsible for compromising Fr. Swamy's computer had extensive resources (including time) and it is obvious that their primary goals were surveillance and incriminating document delivery," the report said.

Father Stan Swamy

In Focus Podcast | Father Stan Swamy: Did the judiciary fail him?
bit.ly/3UVwhri

Collegium recommends five judges to top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Tuesday recommended the names of five judges for appointment in the top court and three for elevation as Chief Justices of High Courts (HC).

The five judges recommended to the government for appointment as Supreme Court judges are Rajasthan HC Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, Patna HC Chief Justice Sanjay Karol, Manipur HC Chief Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar, Patna HC judge Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Allahabad HC judge Justice Manoj Misra, in that order of seniority. If the government appoints them, the vacancies in the top court will come down to one.

The Collegium proposed the names of Uttarakhand HC judge Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as CJ of the Jharkhand High Court. The incumbent Chief Justice, Dr. Ravi Ranjan, is retiring on December 19, 2022.

Gauhati HC judge Justice N. Kotiswar Singh was recommended for elevation as the CJ of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court. The incumbent Chief Justice, Ali Mohd. Magrey, retired on December 7, 2022.

Kerala HC judge Justice K. Vinod Chandran was recommended for elevation as the CJ of the Gauhati High Court. The current Gauhati CJ, Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya, is retiring in January next year.

International travel yet to shake off pandemic blues but students go abroad in record numbers

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Even as international travel, whether for employment or tourism or business, is yet to fully bounce back from its pandemic-induced trough, the first 11 months of 2022 have witnessed a record number of Indian students go abroad on student visas.

According to the statistics placed before Parliament by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI), as many as 6,48,678 students have gone abroad on student visas up to November 30, 2022, an all-time high compared with the student movement figures in the past five years.

The data compiled by the BoI, which collects the data on Indians going abroad based either on their verbal disclosure or the type of visa of the destination country produced by them at the time of immigration clearance, shows that international travel by Indians, including for business, employment, residence re-entry, visiting, and tourism purposes, has not fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

Only travel on student visas and people travelling on visiting visas have reached either the pre-pandemic level or surpassed the pre-COVID-19 figures.

A record number of Indians had gone abroad in 2019, with over 2.52 crore Indians visiting various countries for different purposes, including 89.5 lakh Indians travelling for residence or re-entry purposes, 63.80 lakh on tourist visas, and 42.11 lakh on visiting visas. In 2022 (up to November 30), 1.83 crore Indians went abroad.

Flying abroad

The chart shows the year-on-year change in the purpose-wise departure of Indians to foreign countries from 2019 to 2022. The numbers have drastically increased this year

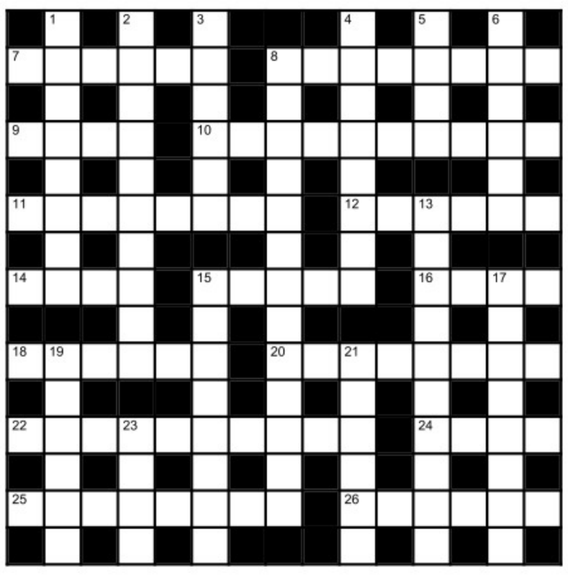
Visa type	2019	2020	2021	2022
Business	-1,933	-12,02,104	-1,38,822	+3,37,664
Employment	-2,64,648	-18,09,595	+1,18,147	+13,09,993
Tourist	+64,429	-50,64,613	-34,792	+18,03,733
Student	+68,351	-3,26,685	+1,84,930	+2,04,104
Visit	+7,01,981	-32,04,124	+5,05,138	+25,80,420
Residence/ re-entry	+5,26,727	-60,60,730	+5,72,755	+37,87,387

TH CROSSWORD + 13736

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Expressed thoughts long after love died (6)
8 Stony pit runs around cutting access (4-4)
9 Maybe love handles initially fierce dog (4)
10 Just about right interrupting childish fit (6,4)
11 Plane behind boat with a bombing strike (5-3)
12 'Part of foot' concisely fits to return this? (6)
14 Straight section in plane, a tangent (4)
15 Catch with thumb (5)
16 Cunning crook (4)
18 Get into a black rage (6)
20 Food chart in each section (8)
22 Dirty task for the Reverend to provide selling point for the group (5,5)
24 West at best powerless, in part adding fuel to the fire? (4)
25 Action-packed time still ahead holding back English fan (8)
26 Whitener essentially alters stimulant in tea (6)

Down

1 Special sack for slop (8)
2 A saint being endlessly blessed when away (2,8)
3 Like housing department experts (6)
4 Little brother that is spoilt so? (8)
5 Cat in Hermione's pet project (4)
6 Pitman's short writing, say for dog (6)
8 Diehard's deed to win holy ground (4-2-3-4)
13 Slow beamer abnormal for this paceman (4,6)
15 Gang members kill without intervention (5-3)
17 Bristle at edges caught after cold waxing (8)
19 Work before prayer upset Hebrews (6)
21 Shrinks, x-ray doctors? (6)
23 Boozers frequently dropping winnings (4)

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L		B	E	S	T	O	W
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D		C		G		W		G		T		T		L
L	O	O	S	E		A	B	O	L	I	S	H	E	D
E		L				R		A		O				C
		F	O	R	M	E	D		L	A	N	Z	H	O	U
E		U		A					A		E		P	
S	T	R	I	K	E	R		P	O	L	I	S	H	
T				E		A		E			I		H	
R	E	M	I	S	S	I	O	N		M	E	T	R	E
A		A		H		D		A		A		A		A
N	O	G	G	I	N		A	L	L	O	T	T	E	D
G		I		F				T		R		E		E
E	X	C	I	T	E		C	Y	L	I	N	D	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	1	2	4	5	6	3	8	9
8	5	9	1	3	2	4	6	7
6	3	4	8	7	9	1	5	2
5	7	8	9	4	3	2	1	6
1	2	6	5	8	7	9	3	4
9	4	3	2	6	1	8	7	5
2	6	1	7	9	8	5	4	3
3	9	5	6	1	4	7	2	8
4	8	7	3	2	5	6	9	1

FAITH

Kaliyuga dharma

The scriptures say that of the four yugas, Kaliyuga is the most dreadful one – it will give all difficulties. In this yuga, righteous activities will slow down and unrighteousness will be at its peak. Justice and dharma will be pushed back.

At the end of Dwaparayuga, all sages and saints were worried about the onset of Kaliyuga. They went to Sage Vedavyasa to enquire about how difficult it would be in this Kaliyuga. Reading their minds and predicting what they would ask, Vedavyasa himself gave a paradoxical reply – that it's very easy to attain salvation in Kaliyuga. The sages were dumbstruck with the reply, which went against much of what they had anticipated.

If a comparison is made between Krithayuga and Kaliyuga, the life expectancy of a human being was 60,000 to 80,000 years in Krithayuga, whereas it's a maximum of 100 years in Kaliyuga. For a small comparison, what was achievable in a hundred years in Krithayuga was possible in ten years in Threthayuga, in one year in Dwaparayuga, and in just one day in Kaliyuga. It was with this perspective that Sage Vedavyasa had said it was easier in Kaliyuga.

In Krithayuga, a person had to take the Bhakti Margam – the penance through Ashtanga Yogam for thousands of years. In the first yuga through penance, in the second by performing yagnas and homams, in the third by doing archanas, and in this Kaliyuga through Nama Sankeerthanam, people may easily attain Salvation.

By the mere lighting of a lamp, darkness is dispelled. Similarly, by chanting the names of God, our dark sins are relieved, Sri Velukkudi Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse.

ISLAMABAD

China urges citizens to leave Afghanistan after Kabul attack

REUTERS

China on Tuesday advised its citizens in Afghanistan to leave the country "as soon as possible," following an attack by Islamic State militants the previous day on a Chinese-owned hotel in Kabul. The attack left three assailants dead and at least two hotel guests injured as they tried to escape by jumping out of a window. AP

LONDON

Two-day rail strike kicks off in U.K., commuters face trouble

AP

U.K. rail workers on Tuesday began a two-day national strike, kicking off a month of walkouts involving nurses to passport control workers that could spell Christmas misery for millions. Rush hour commuters faced a battle to get to work as the RMT launched their latest stoppage over a below-inflation pay offer. AFP

STRASBOURG

European Parliament sacks V-P Eva Kaili in Qatar bribe probe

AP

The European Parliament on Tuesday sacked one of its own Vice Presidents amid corruption accusations allegedly linked to World Cup host Qatar. The assembly's MEPs voted 625 to one to strip Greek socialist MEP Eva Kaili of her vice presidential role, despite her lawyer declaring that she was innocent. AFP

BRUSSELS

European Union agrees to give candidate status to Bosnia

AP

EU countries agreed on Tuesday to grant Bosnia "candidate status" to join the union, diplomats said, putting the volatile Balkan nation at the start of a long road to membership. Russia's war on Ukraine has breathed fresh life into the European Union's willingness to consider letting in more of its eastern neighbours. AFP

Bangladesh arrests chief of largest Islamist party

Arrest comes after Jamaat-e-Islami announced that it would join the anti-government protests called by the Opposition BNP, demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladeshi police said on Tuesday that they had arrested the chief of the country's largest Islamist party, days after it announced it would join the main Opposition in protests to oust Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Counter-terrorism officers arrested Jamaat-e-Islami party emir Shafiqur Rahman in Dhaka, metropolitan police spokesman Faruq Ahmed said, without elaborating on the charges.

A spokesman for Jamaat – the country's third-largest political party, which has been banned from contesting elections since 2012 – condemned the 64-year-old's arrest, saying it was intended to "scuttle the Opposition's anti-government movement".

"This is just another episode of the unjust oppression continuing against the party for the last 15 years," Matiur Rahman Akand, Jamaat's publicity secretary, said.

For years, Jamaat was a major ally of the right-of-centre main Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). But after Ms. Hasina came to power in 2009, Jamaat's entire leadership was arrested and tried for war crimes dating back to the country's 1971 independence war against Pakistan.

The fresh arrest of Jamaat's chief came days after two of the BNP's leaders were arrested on charges of inciting violence on the eve of a giant anti-government rally on Saturday. The BNP has demanded Ms. Hasina step down and let a caretaker government hold a free and fair election.

The Opposition says a credible vote under Ms. Hasina is impossible after she was accused of rigging the past two general elections in 2014 and 2018.

Fuming resistance: Supporters of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) take part in the party's last divisional rally in Dhaka on December 10. AFP

SEC charges ex-FTX CEO with fraud

Associated Press
NEW YORK

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has charged the former CEO of failed cryptocurrency firm FTX with orchestrating a scheme to defraud investors. An SEC complaint filed on Tuesday alleges that Sam Bankman-Fried raised more than $1.8 billion from equity investors since May 2019 by promoting FTX as a safe, responsible platform for trading crypto assets.

The civil complaint says Bankman-Fried diverted customer funds to Alameda Research LLC, his privately-held crypto fund, without telling them. Mr. Bankman-Fried was arrested on Monday in the Bahamas at the request of the U.S..

Moderna, Merck see positive results from cancer vaccine

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The Moderna and Merck drug makers on Tuesday announced positive results from a trial in which messenger RNA technology was used for the first time to make personalised vaccines for skin cancer patients.

The mRNA technology proved vital in the development of vaccines against COVID-19, and scientists have long believed it could help fight other viruses and diseases like cancer.

In a preliminary trial, 150 people who had had their melanoma tumour surgically removed were given up to nine doses of the experimental vaccine alongside the skin cancer treatment Keytruda. The study showed a 44% reduction in risk of death or relapse compared to patients who were only treated with Keytruda, an immunotherapy medicine.

In the Phase-3 trials, the approach will be expanded to other tumour types.

"Today's results are highly encouraging for the field of cancer treatment," Moderna's Chief Executive Officer Stephane Bancel, said in a statement.

"mRNA has been transformative for COVID-19, and now, for the first time ever, we have demonstrated the potential for mRNA to have an impact on outcomes in a randomized clinical trial in melanoma."

Moderna and Merck, known as MSD outside of North America, will soon publish the full results of the study, the results of which have not yet been peer-reviewed.

Messenger RNA is a molecule within cells that carries instructions to form proteins. Scientists can design them to make a particular protein in the body that can help fight viruses and other illnesses.

Merck and Moderna expect to start a phase 3 study next year, and the companies say they intend to expand their approach to other tumour types.

(with inputs from Associated Press)

Seven dead as Peru's new leader fails to quell protests

Agence France-Presse
LIMA

Five more protesters died in Peru on Monday as violent demonstrations over the ousting of the former President showed no sign of calming, despite his successor's efforts to quell the unrest.

Seven people, including three teenagers, have now died in escalating protests since the leftist Pedro Castillo was accused of an attempted coup, impeached and arrested last week.

New President Dina Boluarte tried to ease tensions on Sunday, announcing she would seek to hold elections two years early and declaring a state of emergency in flashpoint areas. But that had little effect as protesters continued to demand her resignation, blocking roads in several cities around the country.

Admiral Hari Kumar, India's Navy chief, visits Sri Lanka

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Admiral R. Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Indian Navy, who is in Colombo on a four-day visit, will call on President Ranil Wickremesinghe, the Indian mission said on Tuesday, amid persisting concerns in New Delhi over a Chinese military vessel "re-entering" the Indian Ocean Region.

Admiral Hari Kumar arrived in Colombo on Monday at the invitation of Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, Commander of Sri Lanka Navy, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said. During the visit, the CNS is scheduled to call on President Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and Minister of State for Defence Premitha Bandara Tennakoon and meet senior military officials.

The Admiral is also scheduled to participate as the Chief Guest at the passing out parade of Sri Lanka's Naval and Maritime Academy, in the eastern Trincomalee district, on December 15, the High Commission said in a statement.

Admiral R. Hari Kumar

Further, indigenous Indian Naval Ship *Sahyadri*, a multi-role missile frigate of the Indian Navy is also scheduled to make port call at Colombo [December 13] to complement the visit of the Indian Navy chief. "The ship would engage in training engagements with Sri Lanka Navy and participate in Maritime Partnership Exercises with Sri Lanka Navy," the High Commission said.

The visit comes even as Indian authorities reportedly flagged Chinese military vessel *Yuan Wang 5* "re-entering" the Indian Ocean Region last week. While there was no official comment immediately, a *PTI* report said the Indian Navy was "keeping an eye" on the movement of the Chinese satellite tracking ship.

In August this year, the same vessel became a source of diplomatic strain between the neighbours after Sri Lanka approved its arrival to the southern Chinese-funded Hambantota port, despite India raising concern. Later, Sri Lanka requested China to defer the arrival of the ship. Apart from India, the United States, too, had conveyed its apprehensions to Sri Lankan authorities at the highest levels.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
ELECTRICAL DIVISION INVITING
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Name of the Works: Operation And Maintenance Of 1,18,000 Nos Of Led Street Lighting, Modern Lighting Of Different Wattages And 5641nos Of CCMS Boxes For A Period Of Seven Years (7years) In The Entire Areas Of GVMC Including Installation & Maintenance Of New Lights And CCMS In Extended Areas
RFP tender notice No. **02/2022-23/CE/SE(works1)/EE(Elec) dt.13.12.2022(2nd call)**
Number of works: 1 No,
Tender downloading Starting Dt: 13.12.2022; Closing Dt.27.12.2022
-Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in: GVMC web https://gvmc.gov.in
EE (Electrical) Cell No. **99480 78504**
SE (Works1) Cell No. **81878 96437,** CE,GVMC Cell No. **99660 00294**

Wheels India Limited
Regd Office : 21, Patullos Road, Chennai – 600 002
CIN : L35921TN1960PLC004175
Phone : 044-2623 4300; Fax : 044-26257121
Website : www.wheelsindia.com
Invites offers from interested parties for purchase of Mild Steel scrap items, for the two month period JAN - FEB 2023.
Details of the items available for disposal and tender terms and conditions can be had from the Company on written request.
Sealed offers can be submitted to the **Vice President (Supply Chain),** Wheels India Limited, Padi, Chennai - 600 050 **to reach on or before 29th DECEMBER 2022.**

KERALA BANK
Kerala State Co-operative Bank
PB.No.6515,
COBANK TOWERS, VIKAS BHAVAN.P.O,PALAYAM,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM., PIN-695033
E-TENDER NOTICE
The Kerala State Co-operative Bank invites empanelment of Security Printers & Fixing of rate contract for Printing of Personalized/Non Personalized Cheques for the Bank. .E-tender documents containing specification, terms & conditions etc .can be obtained from e-tenders website of Kerala State Govt.(www.etenders.kerala.gov.in). Details are also available in the Bank's Website:www.keralacobank.com The last date of submission of E-tenders is 26/12/2022 before 3.p.m Trivandrum
12/12/2022
(Sd/-),Chief Executive Officer

KSEB
KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution South), Power House Buildings, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID: 2022_KSEB_536643_1, PAC - Rs.5,71,45,000,
Last date: 20.12.2022, 05.00pm
Office of the Chief Engineer (Transmission North), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Kozhikode
E-Tender ID:2022_KSEB_536058_1, PAC-Rs.19,25,23,790/-,
Last date: 10.01.2023, 04.00pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref: PR/MC1/E388/E-Tender/2022

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Long Term Tender Notice
IFB Nos.101/2022-23, 102/2022-23 Dt.13.12.2022, 92/2022-23 & 93/2022-23 Dt.23.09.2022 (2nd Call)

Tender for 04 Nos. of Works i.e. 02 No. of works under Dam Safety Works (DRIP) & 02 No. of work under Similar Works category are re-invited in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam & LLC Division, Ballari through `e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	14.12.2022 at 11:00AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time : (IFB No.92, 93 & 101)	27.12.2022 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time : (IFB No.92, 93 & 101)	27.12.2022 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage: (IFB No.92, 93 & 101)	28.12.2022 at 11:00AM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage* : (IFB No.92, 93 & 101)	06.01.2023 at 11:00AM
Date of opening of TQ Stage: (IFB No.92, 93 & 101)	06.01.2023 at 3:00 PM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time : (IFB No.102)	21.12.2022 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time (IFB No.102)	21.12.2022 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage: (IFB No.102)	21.12.2022 at 6.00PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage* (IFB No.102)	26.12.2022 at 11:00AM
Date of opening of TQ Stage:(IFB No.102)	26.12.2022 at 3:00 PM
Preliminary Meeting for IFB No.102 Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time for IFB No.92, 93 & 101:	17.12.2022 at 11:00AM 20.12.2022 at 11.00AM

Further details can be seen @ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
* Commencement of Reverse Tendering
Ph: 08394 - 259114
Fax 08394 - 259167
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: etenders_ep@kmscl.kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No. KMSCL/EP/22096/2022 Dated : 13.12.2022
e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)
Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T480/2022	Digital Differential Scanning Colorimetry, Puretone Audiometer Model B ,Cardiac OCT with FFR, Microwave Synthesizer, Anesthesia Work Station Model C, Labor Suite, VATS Camera System and instruments, MICS System and instruments and Endoscopic Spares, Pediatric Gastro intestinal endoscopic Machine & Ancillary Equipments	22.12.2022 11.00 a.m.	10.01.2023 05.00 p.m.
2.	T481/2022	Robotic Transcranial Doppler, Holter Monitor Model C, Syringe Infusion Pump (Dual), Diagnostic and Operating 2.9 Hysteroscopy with accessories, CT Scanner 32 slice, Shower Trolley	23.12.2022 11.00 a.m.	10.01.2023 05.00 p.m.
		Video Colposcope , Direct Ophthalmoscope, Blood collection Monitor	N.A.	28.12.2022 05.00 p.m.
3.	T482(R)/ 2022	Automated Blood Culture System Model A, Particle Counter for Checking Modular OT Performance, Fully Automated Hybrid Urine Analyzer, Electric Dermatone (Battery Driven), Hand Held Ultrasound Doppler (Tablet Type), Intra Vascular Ultrasound (IVUS) Machine and Fractional Flow Reserve (FFR) Capability, OT Equipment Set, Instruments for Injection Set, Fibre Optic Bronchoscope, Digital Dental X-ray Unit (Pediatric), Corneal Topography, Video Bronchoscope, Fluid Warmer (Blood Warmer), Densitometer with Computer, Functional Electric Simulator, Strobe Video Rhyno Laryngoscope with Monitor, Camera and Light Source, Navigation System for Anterior and Lateral Skull Based Surgery, Video Colposcope HD Type II, Embedding Station, Indirect Ophthalmoscope, Apherisis Machine, Multilevel Racking System with Material Lift, Binocular Microscope LED Various Types, Gas Pipeline System for Analytical Laboratories, Virtual Reality for Neuro Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Tread Mill, Equipments for Limb Fitting Center, Cycler for performing peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) Type A, Cycler for performing peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) Type B, Cortical Visual Impairment Examination Charts	N.A.	05.01.2023 05.00 p.m.
		Furniture for Sub Centers, Refrigerated Blood Transport Box - Various Types, Medicine Rack, Various General Furniture, ECG Machine Single Channel, Effluent Treatment Plant for Incinerator	N.A.	24.12.2022 05.00 p.m.

State Public Sector undertakings and MSMEs registered in the State or registered outside the state satisfying the policy of Government of India are exempted from remittance of tender document cost and EMD subject to the submission of valid documents, provided all the offered products are manufactured by them. Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

Government of Tamilnadu
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No. 16 /2022-2023 / D-1 /Dated: 09.12.2022
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu sealed **percentage tender in Two Cover System through online will be received Upto 19.01.2023 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads, Tirunelveli circle** for the works approved in G.O.(Ms) No.220 Highways and Minor Ports (HF1) Department dated. 18.11.2022 Under **Upgradation of Panchayat Union / Panchayat Roads** to ODR standards **for One Work in Tirunelveli NABARD and Rural Roads Sub Division of Tirunelveli (H)** NABARD and Rural Roads Division and **One work in Paramakudi (H), NABARD and Rural Roads Sub Division of Paramakudi (H)** NABARD and Rural Roads Division.
Details such as Name of works, approximate value of works, EMD, documents to be uploaded, critical dates and all other details related to the works are available from **20.12.2022** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** If any changes / Corrections/ Amendments etc related to this tender arises, it will be published on the above Government website only.
DIPR/5475/TENDER/2022
Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads, Tirunelveli-2.
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Breakthrough in fusion technology

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. researchers announced a historic nuclear fusion breakthrough on Tuesday that could pave the way for alternative clean energy sources.

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) said an experiment it conducted this month "produced more energy from fusion than the laser energy used to drive it."

The U.S. Department of Energy described the achievement of fusion ignition as a "major scientific breakthrough" that will lead to "advancements in national defence and the future of clean power." LLNL director Dr. Kim Budil described it as "is one of the most significant scientific challenges ever tackled by humanity."

INBRIEF

Tata Motors to raise prices of commercial vehicles from Jan.

Tata Motors said it would increase the prices of commercial vehicles by up to 2% from January 2023. "The company has been absorbing a significant portion of the increased costs, but the steep rise in overall input costs has compelled it to pass on some proportion through this minimal price hike," Tata Motors said in a statement.

Universal Sompo, Zopper ally to offer 'personalised cover'

Universal Sompo General Insurance said it had partnered with Zopper, an insurance infrastructure API platform, to roll out a special integrated offering for customers. Through this partnership, customers will have access to buy insurance seamlessly along with an option to purchase a protection plan. The tie-up aims to cover 1 million assets by offering users with personalised insurance solutions, as well as a hassle-free customer experience from policy generation to claims management, the company said in a statement.

Sterling Holiday Resorts opens eighth resort in T.N.

Sterling Holiday Resorts said it had opened its eighth resort property in Tamil Nadu 'Sterling Arunai Anantha Tiruvannamalai', about 173 km from Chennai. The resort was inaugurated by MD & CEO Vikram Lalvani and property owner S. Ravindren. "It can be the ideal getaway from the hustle and bustle of city-life and with a fort, dam, caves and beautiful hillsides other than temples and ashrams, there are many discoveries and experiences to be had here," Mr. Lalvani said.

"It can be an ideal destination for weddings and corporate events," he added.

'India may be first to hold satellite spectrum auction'

TRAI in discussion with experts, regulators worldwide for suitable model, consultation paper to be floated thereafter; to recommend steps to ease process for govt. permissions, says chief Vaghela

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India will be the first country to auction spectrum for satellite communication (SatCom), and it should be designed to attract investments in the sector, telecom regulator TRAI chairman P.D. Vaghela said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a Broadband India Forum summit on SatCom, Mr. Vaghela said the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) would soon make recommendations to make permissions required for satellite communication from various Ministries – Information and Broadcasting, Space and Telecom – seamless to enhance ease of doing business in the sector. He also said TRAI had received a reference from the Department of Telecommunication for the spectrum required to be put to auction and associated aspects of satellite-based communication. "I think India will be the first to handle the issue of auctioning the space base spectrum. We are working on it."

TRAI is yet to come up with a consultation paper on the spectrum auction as per the standard process meant for satellite communication.

When asked about the status of the paper, Mr. Vaghela said that TRAI was in discussion with experts and regulators worldwide for a suitable model and the consultation paper would be floated after those discussions are over.

Aiming for the sky

TRAI received reference from DoT for spectrum to be put to auction and associated aspects of satellite communication

- Auction should be designed to attract investments in the sector
- TRAI working on auction model
- Applicants need permission from Ministries of Information, and Broadcasting, Space and Telecom

Centre gets ₹60.5 cr. from TDS on virtual digital assets

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday informed Parliament that ₹60.46 crore had been received in tax from entities for transactions in virtual digital assets since the introduction of TDS provisions in July.

From April 1, the government had brought in 30% tax plus surcharge and cess on transfer of cryptocurency assets such as bitcoin, ethereum, tether and dogecoin. Also, to track the money trail, a 1% Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) had been brought in from July 1 on payments exceeding ₹10,000 towards virtual digital currencies.

U.S. inflation slowed sharply to 7.1% over past 12 months

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Inflation in the United States slowed again last month, the latest sign that price increases are gradually cooling despite the pressures they continue to inflict on households.

Consumer prices rose 7.1% in November from a year earlier, the government said Tuesday. That was slower than 7.7% in October and a recent peak of 9.1% in June. It was the fifth straight slowdown.

On a month-to-month basis, the consumer price index rose just 0.1% in November, easing from 0.4% in October.

Even with last month's further easing of inflation, the Federal Reserve plans to keep raising interest rates. On Wednesday, the Fed is set to boost its benchmark rate for a seventh time this year, a move that will further raise borrowing costs for consumers and businesses. Economists have warned that in continuing to tighten credit to fight inflation, the Fed is likely to cause a recession next year.

Tuesday's report showed that inflation in November was slowed by less expensive gasoline, electricity and used cars, among other items.

The national average for a gallon of regular gas has sunk from $5 a gallon in June to $3.26 as of Monday. Many supply chains have also unsnarled, helping reduce the costs of imported goods and parts. Prices for lumber, copper, wheat and other commodities have fallen steadily, which tends to lead to lower construction and food costs.

Economists expect the Fed to further slow its rate increases next year, with quarter-point increases in February and March.

Banks wrote off NPAs in excess of ₹10 lakh cr. in last 5 years: FM

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Banks have written off bad loans worth ₹10,09,511 crore in the last five fiscal years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament on Tuesday.

'Clean up their books'

The non-performing assets (NPAs), including those for which full provisioning has been made on completion of four years, are removed from the balance sheet of the bank concerned, Ms. Sitharaman said in a reply to the Rajya Sabha.

"Banks write off NPAs as part of their regular exercise to clean up their balance sheet, avail tax benefit and optimise capital, in accordance with RBI guidelines and policy approved by their boards. As per inputs received from RBI, Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) wrote off an amount of ₹10,09,511 crore during the last five financial years," she said.

As borrowers continue to be liable for repayment, write-off does not benefit the borrower, she said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	62,533	0.65
US Dollar	82.60	-0.10
Gold	54,534	0.13
Brent oil	80.1	2.57

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	4060.20	43.50
Adani Ports	894.80	13.50
Apollo Hosp	4678.85	-63.45
Asian Paints	3178.50	12.15
Axis Bank	944.60	5.95
Bajaj Auto	3636.75	40.00
Bajaj Finserv	1611.45	19.35
Bajaj Finance	6620.10	113.60
Bharti Airtel	838.05	9.65
BPCL	346.15	-2.85
Britannia Ind	4426.55	-6.00
Cipla	1109.90	13.10
Coal India	231.55	-0.85
Divis Lab	3355.55	16.75
Dr Reddys Lab	4458.15	5.90
Eicher Motors	3313.00	-7.45
Grasim Ind	1810.80	-4.50
HCL Tech	1044.70	16.30
HDFC	2702.60	16.85
HDFC Bank	1648.30	4.55
HDFC Life	582.35	5.85
Hero MotoCorp	2759.45	-12.00
Hindalco	458.10	-3.85
Hind Unilever	2710.30	-6.95
ICICI Bank	932.95	2.65
IndusInd Bank	1234.95	28.20
Infosys	1572.15	24.95
ITC	345.60	2.40
JSW Steel	744.25	3.40
Kotak Bank	1868.50	2.75
L&T	2172.90	9.20
M&M	1283.35	19.35
Maruti Suzuki	8620.70	-39.05
NestleIndia	20388.30	-99.05
NTPC	169.20	0.30
ONGC	144.35	2.00
PowerGrid Corp	216.30	0.75
Reliance Ind	2625.00	11.90
SBI Life	1277.80	14.60
State Bank	616.75	3.70
Sun Pharma	994.65	7.25
TataConsumerProduct	807.60	-2.45
Tata Motors	418.50	4.35
Tata Steel	111.20	-0.50
TCS	3332.10	45.65
Tech Mahindra	1045.75	13.65
Titan	2575.90	-8.75
UltraTech Cement	7225.30	78.45
UPL	767.40	-5.65
Wipro	397.75	1.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.61	82.93
Euro	87.02	87.35
British Pound	101.43	101.83
Japanese Yen (100)	60.01	60.24
Chinese Yuan	11.84	11.89
Swiss Franc	88.16	88.50
Singapore Dollar	60.96	61.20
Canadian Dollar	60.63	60.87
Malaysian Ringitt	18.64	18.73
Australian Dollar	55.89	56.12

Source:Indian Bank

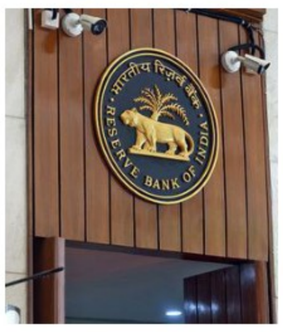
'Real rates turn positive as inflation slows, peak in view'

Reuters
MUMBAI

India's real interest rate has turned positive after headline retail inflation eased below 6% for the first time this year, analysts said, suggesting that the peak policy rate is now close at hand.

The RBI has raised repo rate by 225 basis points since May, taking the terminal rate to 6.25%, to curb inflationary pressures. Inflation had stayed above the central bank's repo rate for this year, implying a negative real rate.

"India returned to a positive real policy rate in Nov, 2022, and this month's 35 bps (basis points) rate hike to 6.25% has moved the real (inflation-adjusted) repo rate even more emphatically into positive territory," Prasenjit K. Basu, chief economist at ICICI Securities wrote in a note.



"We retain our view that the Dec. 2022 rate hike was the last one for FY23 (fiscal year 2023), and the next policy action by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will entail a rate cut of 25 bps," Mr. Basu added.

India's retail inflation was at 5.88% in November, as against 6.77% in the previous month, surprising analysts who had predicted the reading at 6.40%. Inflation had stayed above the central bank's target for 10 straight months to October.

While the central bank does not target real rates, most analysts expect it to try keeping the inflation-adjusted rate at close to 1% to support growth.

This would mean that the central bank will be ready to pause rate increases as inflation is seen easing towards 5% in the first quarter of 2022/23, implying a real rate of above 1%.

While the economic research division of State Bank of India believes that the chances of a rate increase are minimal in February, Nomura lowered the probability to 60% from 70% previously.

NCLAT allows McDonald's, ex-partner to drop cases

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Tuesday allowed U.S. food major McDonald's and its former estranged Indian partner Vikram Bakshi to withdraw petitions filed against each other over Connaught Plaza Restaurants Ltd.

On May 9, 2019, both the parties announced an out-of-court settlement with the U.S. fast food chain agreeing to buy Mr. Bakshi's share in the joint venture that operated outlets of McDonald's in north and east India. Following that both Mr. Bakshi and McDonald's had approached the NCLAT to withdraw cases filed against each other.

Vedanta, 30 Japanese firms tie up for chip making

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Vedanta Group on Tuesday said that it had signed pacts with 30 Japanese technology firms to develop an Indian semiconductor and glass display manufacturing ecosystem.

The pacts were signed at the Vedanta-Avanstrate Business Partners Summit 2022 held last week at Tokyo, Japan. The summit was attended by more than 200 delegates from over 100 global companies.

The summit saw interest from a host of companies eager to be part of India's semiconductor mission.

'China plans $143-bn push to boost chips, compete with U.S.'

Reuters
HONG KONG

China is working on a more than 1 trillion yuan ($143 billion) support package for its semiconductor industry, three sources said, in a major step towards self sufficiency in chips and to counter U.S. moves aimed at slowing its technological advances.

Beijing plans to roll out one of its biggest fiscal incentive packages over five years, mainly as subsidies and tax credits to bolster semiconductor production and research activities at home, said the sources.

The plan, which according to the sources could be implemented as soon as the first quarter of next year, has not been reported before.

China has a stated policy priority to develop an independent chip industry

Subsidy for purchases

The majority of the financial assistance would be used to subsidise the purchases of domestic semiconductor equipment by Chinese firms, mainly semiconductor fabrication plants, or fabs, said two of the sources.

Such companies would be entitled to a 20% subsidy on the cost of purchases, the three sources said.

China has a stated policy priority to develop an independent chip industry.

The fiscal support plan comes after U.S. President Joe Biden in August signed a landmark bill to provide $52.7 billion in grants for U.S. semiconductor production and research as well as tax credit for chip plants estimated to be worth $24 billion.

With the incentive package, Beijing aims to step up support for Chinese chips firms to build, expand or modernise domestic facilities for fabrication, assembly, packaging, and research and development, the sources said.

SILVER LINING

Lloris urges Kane to 'keep his chin up' after England penalty miss

Hugo Lloris has revealed he spoke to Harry Kane in the aftermath of the England captain's penalty miss against France. "We had a text after the game. It was not easy to find the words straight after and I think he needed some rest," said Lloris. "It is a difficult time for Harry but I think he can be proud of what he has done in this World Cup."

READY TO MOVE ON

Enrique wants new challenge at club level after Spain sacking

Former Spain coach Luis Enrique is ready for a new challenge and hopes to continue his managerial career at club level. "I want to coach, I see myself wanting to take on a club and be able to develop with greater finesse and precision what I have not been able to do in the national side," he said. "(But) I will probably wait for next season."

OCCASION TO CHERISH

A football match where the workers took centrestage

The men who had worked tirelessly behind the scenes to build Qatar's eight World Cup stadiums and 42 training grounds played an hour-long match alongside the legends of football at the Al Thumama Stadium. In the end the team in blue was bested by those in golden jersey's with Alessandro Del Piero scoring the winner.

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Tchouameni and Upamecano miss France training

Midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni and centre-back Dayot Upamecano both missed training on Monday as France prepared for its semifinal against Morocco. The French federation did not give any explanation for their absence, but sports daily *L'Equipe* reported that Upamecano had a sore throat and Tchouameni was suffering from a knock.

Can an inventive France unlock Morocco's defence?

Deschamps, looking to reach back-to-back World Cup finals, acknowledges the compactness of the Atlas Lions while Regragui says winning is what matters, not how

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

In the streets of Doha, you no longer spot the canary yellow of Brazil. The blue-and-white stripes of Argentina are also lost in the red of Morocco as if a bottle of ketchup has been upended over the city.

Morocco, the "Rocky of this World Cup," as coach Walid Regragui calls his team, has already created history in the first World Cup in the Arab region. It is the first African team to make it to the semifinals in 92 years of trying.

Their supporters are everywhere, the Moroccan shirts, flags and scarves are a scarcity as shopkeepers in the *souq* wonder what to do with the leftover Brazil and England jerseys.

Regragui's team has defied every prediction to be here (except those of Samuel Eto'o and Sunday Oliseh) as it started the tournament with odds of 200/1. But now, a step away from the final, its defence is yet to be breached by an opposition striker. The only goal it has conceded came from its own defender's deflection in a 2-1 win over Canada.

France manager Didier Deschamps, looking to reach back-to-back World Cup finals, acknowledged the compactness of his opponent. "Morocco has the ability to defend very well. But it also has the aggressive quality to win games... otherwise it wouldn't be here. It's a team that has defended the best. My observers have seen all the games and there are things to consider. Our objective will be to find a way to score," he said.

But Morocco is not just defence-minded. Regragui despite ceding possession – Morocco, on average, has enjoyed 32.4% possession in five matches – has utilised the dribbling skills and the speed of wingers Hakim Ziyech and Sofiane Boufal to run one of the most impressive counter-attacking units. Morocco's 13 shots on goal and five goals are the lowest among the semifinalists, but alongside Croatia it is the only undefeated team in the tournament.

"We are still hungry, and a lot," said Regragui ahead of the big game. "France will not want us to have the ball, because they need it. We need three or four

Star attractions: Ziyech will be expected to create chances for Morocco while Giroud will be eager to strike when he gets an opportunity. AP

chances, score a goal and knock out the opponent. France was not spectacular against England, but they were effective. Even if we have just 12% possession but effective, it doesn't matter. Winning is what matters, winning for Africa, winning for our people, winning to show our neighbours, Egypt and Libya, that we can do it."

Deschamps' France, too, has defied the conventional notion of ball possession and looked at defensive stability. Against England, it just had 42% possession but was devastating with its wing play and clinical with its chances. Deschamps, however, expects the game against Morocco to be different. "We're as good as Morocco on the break and fast attacks. We won't abandon possession, but when we have the ball, we're going to have to make it count."

Kylian Mbappe, the leading scorer with five strikes, will be up against Achraf Hakimi, who has been the standout right-back here, while Yahia Attiyat has done wonderfully well on the left. But the absence of skipper Romain Saiss might cause a problem for the Atlas Lions against the guile and positioning of Olivier Giroud.

But most in the 68,895-seater Al Bayt Stadium and the streets of Doha would like the Moroccan underdogs to continue their Hollywood feel-good story against their former colonisers.

Today's fiesta

Morocco vs. France, second semifinal, 00.30 a.m. (Thu)

HEAD-TO-HEAD* * both official and unofficial

Matches 11, Morocco 1, France 7, Drawn 3

- **1963:** Morocco bt France 2-1
- **1966:** Morocco drew with France 2-2
- **1967:** Morocco lost to France 0-2
- **1975:** Morocco lost to France 1-3 on penalties after 1-1 draw
- **1987:** Morocco drew with France 0-0
- **1988:** Morocco lost to France 1-2
- **1996:** Morocco lost to France 0-1
- **1998:** Morocco lost to France 5-6 on penalties after 2-2 draw
- **1999:** Morocco lost to France 0-1
- **2000:** Morocco lost to France 1-5
- **2007:** Morocco drew with France 2-2

- France's sixth appearance in the World Cup semifinals in its last nine participation in the Finals
- Les Bleus is the first defending champion to reach the last four since Brazil in 1998
- France has been successful in 15 of its last 17 World Cup knockout games (including one penalty shootout win)
- The Frenchmen have won each of their last six knockout contests
- Morocco is only the third nation (other than countries from Europe and South America) to make it to the semifinals of the World Cup after USA (1930) and Korea Republic (2002)
- Morocco will be the 25th country to compete in the last-four stage of the World Cup. It is the only team which has not featured in the semifinals before
- Morocco is unbeaten in its last six World Cup matches (won 3, drawn 3), its best streak at the Finals
- France and Morocco have met five times in official international fixtures. The first one was in 1988 when France won 2-1, but their history goes back further. The two figured in unofficial games in the 60s, 70s and 80s. France has never lost an official match to Morocco. The most recent clash was a 2-2 draw in Paris in 2007

Richa has the potential to be one of the most dangerous batters in intl. cricket: Healy

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Richa Ghosh is earning well-deserved praise for the way she bludgeoned the formidable Australian bowling attack and helped the Indian women score one of their greatest wins at Navi Mumbai's D.Y. Patil Stadium on Sunday night.

"She has the potential to be (one of the most dangerous batters in international women's cricket)," Australian captain Alyssa Healy said on Tuesday. "(At the) WBBL she probably did not have quite the impact as she is having in this series... The confidence that she is coming out and batting with, is probably a little terrifying for a lot of U-19 World Cup sides out there."

Richa, along with her senior India teammate Shafali Verma, has been included in the inaugural Women's Under-19 World Cup to be held in South Africa next month. "We are only thinking about this series now," she said. "Once we join the U-19 camp, we will focus on those things. It won't be a problem to gel with the team, as both Shafali and I have already met the players."

Looking back at her heroics in the second T20I, she said she had given her word to her senior partner Smriti Mandhana that she would finish the job when the left-handed opener got out.

"She had asked me to do that," Richa said. "I always enjoy batting with senior players (like Smriti and Harmanpreet Kaur). I used to enjoy batting with Mithali Raj in the ODIs, too. From them we could learn how to build an innings."

Idolises Dhoni

She said she had worked quite hard on her game and fitness during the COVID-19 break. "I worked on my power hitting and mental strength as well," said the wicketkeeper-batter who idolises M.S. Dhoni, although she has not been able to meet him in person.

"I have been watching the way he finishes an innings," she said. "He is an inspiration and so is my father, who also used to play cricket. I would like to meet Dhoni one day."

The third T20I in the five-match series will start at the Brabourne Stadium here at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Injury-ravaged India can still be a handful for Bangladesh

INDIA IN BANGLADESH

N. Sudarshan
CHATTOGRAM

Not so long ago, India's selection headaches were of the pleasant variety. An assembly line of made-to-order cricketers meant that it could form more than one winning team, with selectors shoehorning the deserving lot the way an usher would at a crowded Broadway theatre.

When Hanuma Vihari was dropped for the Bangladesh Test series, it was this image that came to mind. Chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma said "the middle-order was packed and sometimes you miss out."

But on Wednesday at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium – where the first of two Tests will begin – it will be an injury-ravaged side, missing as many as four first-choice players in Rohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohd. Shami and Jasprit Bumrah, that will take the field.

It is still a formidable line-up. No team that has K.L. Rahul, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant and R. Ashwin is to be trifled with. But the contests come at a troubled time for Indian cricket.

The excitement and novelty of Rohit taking over as full-time skipper across

Raring to go: Kohli will look to carry his recent form into the Test series. AFP

formats have all but dissipated. The dispiriting loss to England in the T20 World Cup semifinals and the 1-2 ODI series loss to Bangladesh have brought a feeling of gloom.

The squad's task is hence two-fold: clear the fog that has set over the team and record a series win that can keep the World Test Championship dream alive.

Kohli's form

Kohli's return to form – in the shorter formats – is welcome news. The former India captain's last century in whites came against Bangladesh just over three years ago in Kolkata in a pink-ball Test. Ending the drought now would be timely.

Pant, who has looked unsettled of late, will be keenly watched. His batting returns have been meagre, and he sat out the ODI series against Bangladesh without a clear-cut reason.

Cheteshwar Pujara, whose career was seemingly over, has now taken over as vice-captain from the southpaw. But Test cricket is Pant's safe space – 488 runs in his last six Test innings – and a return will feel like oxygen.

It remains to be seen how India builds its bowling arsenal on what Bangladesh's leading quickie Taskin Ahmed termed a "batting paradise". Left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat, finally rewarded for his excellent domestic form, can add to the maiden Test cap he earned way back in December 2010.

Dismal record

Bangladesh, too, will be looking to set a few records straight. It has never tasted victory in a Test against India, anywhere. In 2022, it won just one of its eight Tests, losing even the home series against Sri Lanka in May.

It will be hobbled by the absence of seasoned batter Tamim Iqbal (groin injury) and Taskin (lack of match fitness).

It will be up to the likes of skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who is nursing a slight side strain, and Litton Das to carry the team.

The rise of wicketkeeper-batter Zakir Hasan, whose 173-run knock against India-A earned him the maiden Test call-up, and the recent exploits of all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz will give the home team confidence.

India-Bangladesh H2H in Tests

	Matches	India	Bangladesh	Drawn
Overall	11	9	0	2
In Bangladesh	8	6	0	2

The schedule:

First Test: Dec. 14-18, Chattogram | **Second Test:** Dec. 22-26, Mirpur
Both matches start at 9 a.m. IST

> Umesh is very experienced and we all know what he brings to the table. Unfortunately, he hasn't got too many opportunities [because] of the team balance
>
> **PARAS MHAMBREY**
> India's bowling coach

> We are up against a really good Indian side. So my expectation is to be competitive and try and get the games to the fifth day and find a win
>
> **RUSSELL DOMINGO**
> Bangladesh head coach

Cheteshwar Pujara (Vice-Capt.), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, K.S. Bharat, R. Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Navdeep Saini, Saurabh Kumar and Jaydev Unadkat.

Bangladesh: Shakib Al Hasan (Capt.), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mominul Haque, Yasir Ali, Mushfiqur Rahim, Litton Das, Nurul Hasan, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Khaled Ahmed, Ebadot Hossain, Shoriful Islam, Zakir Hasan, Rejaur Rahman Raja and Anamul Haque.

Umpires: Michael Gough and S.I.S. Saikat; **TV Umpire:** Chris Brown; **Match referee:** Ranjan Madugalle.

Match starts at 9 a.m. IST.

INBRIEF

Bulls dethrone Dabang, Thalaivas edge out Yoddhas

Bengaluru Bulls dethroned Dabang Delhi 56-24 in Eliminator 1 of the Pro Kabaddi League in Mumbai on Tuesday. Bharat (15 points) and Vikash Kandola (13) shone for Bulls. Tamil Thalaivas won the tie-breaker against UP Yoddhas after a 36-36 tie. In the semifinal, Bulls meet Pink Panthers and Thalaivas take on Paltan.

India cruises past Bangladesh by seven wickets

India defeated Bangladesh by seven wickets for its third consecutive victory in the third T20 Cricket World Cup for the Blind in Cuttack on Tuesday.

The scores: Bangladesh 166/4 in 20 overs (Md. Ashiqur Rahman 75, Md. Arif 33) lost to India 167/3 in 13.1 overs (T. Durga Rao 73, Nakula Badanayak 36).

Hockey World Cup ticket prices announced

The highest ticket price for a men's hockey World Cup match in Bhubaneswar has been set at ₹500, organisers said on Tuesday. "India match-day tickets are priced at ₹500 for West Stand, ₹400 for East Stand, and ₹200 for North and South Stand. For non-India match days, tickets are priced at ₹500 for West Stand, ₹200 for East Stand and ₹100 for North and South Stands," Hockey India said in a statement. "For qualifiers onwards till the final, tickets are priced at ₹500 for West Stand, ₹400 for East Stand and ₹200 for North and South Stand."

IM Harshavardhan clinches the Asian junior chess title

International Master G.B. Harshavardhan won the Asian junior chess championship held in Tagaytay City (The Philippines) recently. Remaining undefeated, Harshavardhan scored 7/9 with five wins and four draws. The Asian Junior title also brought Harshavardhan his maiden Grandmaster-norm. "I'm so very happy winning this tough and prestigious chess tournament," he said. Harshavardhan trains under FIDE Master & FIDE Trainer K. Visweswaran.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs India: 1st Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
India Women vs Australia Women: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
FIFA World Cup 2022: (semifinals): Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

BENGALURU LOCALS

All round show by Tejas

BENGALURU: K.A. Tejas (4/50 and 86 n.o.) helped Karnataka defeat Goa in the Vijay Merchant Trophy under-16 match at Vidarbha.

The score: Goa 211 in 88.1 overs (Yash Kasvankar 60, Dishank Misquin 101 n.o., Samyak Vellalore 4/52, K.A. Tejas 4/50) and 125 in 58.1 overs (Vedant Dabral 37 n.o., Samyak Vellalore 3/21, Manikanth Shivanand 3/26) lost to Karnataka 306/9 decl. in 91 overs (Manikanth Shivanand 26, Arnav Mishra 26, Akshath Prabhakar 69, Rishabh Nayak 26, K.A. Tejas 86 n.o) and 32 for no loss in 9.5 overs (Siddesh Asalkar 28 n.o.).

Zamorin's takes title

Zamorin's Higher Secondary School (Kerala) won the Parikrma Champions League 2022 under-16 football tournament here.

The results: PCL 2022 final: Zamorin's Higher Secondary School (Kerala) bt Delhi PS (Bangalore North) 2-0.
Plate final: Parikrma bt TISB 1-0.
Special prizes: Fair Play Team: TSWRIES (Telangana)
Player of the tournament: A.K. Vysaka (Zamorin's).
Golden Boot: Nabhi Anand (DPS North Bangalore).

Narrow win for AGORC

AGORC edged out Blitz FC 3-2 in the BDFA A division football league here.

The results: AGORC FC 3 (Lokesh 45, Dinesh 65, Yogith 67) bt Blitz 2 (Mithun 33, Manoj Kumar 40); BTM FC 1 (Nakshatra 9) bt RWF FC 0.

Jose, Vishal silver-lining for Karnataka

The famed batting line-up has no answer to Services pacer Diwesh Pathania's spell who bagged a five-for exploiting the conditions before the debutants joined forces; the hosts hopes now rest on Sharath and Gowtham who are at the crease to post a respectable total

Wrecker-in-chief: Diwesh Pathan used the overcast conditions to put Karnataka on the back-foot early on with a five-for. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Nikin Jose played sensibly to rescue his team. SUDHAKARA JAIN

RANJI TROPHY

Sports Bureau

Debutants Nikin Jose (62, 83b, 6x4) and Vishal Onat (33, 79b, 6x4) provided hope in an otherwise disappointing day for Karnataka.

In its Ranji Trophy opener, against Services at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka slumped to 148 for six. Only 40 overs were bowled on a day affected by rain.

Services pacer Diwesh Pathania exploited the overcast conditions to the maximum, picking up five wickets.

The experienced names in the Karnataka line-up failed to deliver.

Captain Mayank Agarwal and fellow opener R. Samarth both fell for 8; Manish Pandey (10) and Shreyas Gopal (0) did not fare any better.

Jose and Onat showed promise. When fresh at the crease, the duo survived a stiff test posed by a dangerous Pathania.

Mysuru batter Jose, who made big runs in the recent Vijay Hazare Trophy, made an enterprising fifty. Teenager Onat, drafted into the side on the basis of a stellar run in the Cooch Behar under-19 Trophy, also looked the part.

The duo got behind the ball well to negotiate the movement. When the bowlers over-pitched, Jose and Onat struck clean drives.

Their 84-run third-wicket stand ended when Pathania trapped Onat leg-before. Jose fell a short while later, mistiming a pull.

Karnataka's hopes of posting a respectable total rests on B.R. Sharath (9 n.o.) and K. Gowtham (10 n.o.).

The score:

Karnataka —1st innings: R. Samarth lbw b Pathania 8, Mayank Agarwal c Lohchab b Pathania 8, Vishal Onat lbw b Pathania 33, Nikin Jose c Narang b Guleria 62, Manish Pandey b Pathania 10, Shreyas Gopal c Lohchab b Pathania 0, B.R. Sharath (batting) 9, K. Gowtham (batting) 10; Extras (lb-3, w-1, nb-4): 8; Total (for six wickets, in 40 overs): 148.

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-16, 3-100, 4-122, 5-124, 6-133.

Services bowling: Pathania 12-3-40-5, Nishan 13-3-42-0, Guleria 10-0-42-1, Rahul 5-0-21-0.

RANJI SCORES - ROUND 1, DAY 1

Elite: Group A: Uttarakhand 282 in 78 overs (Kunal Chandela 92, Dikshanshu Negi 83, Akhil Rawat 56 n.o.) vs. Nagaland 9/0 in 7 overs. **Toss:** Uttarakhand.
Odisha 214/5 in 90 overs (Shantanu Mishra 61, Subhranshu Senapati 52) vs Baroda. **Toss:** Baroda.
Uttar Pradesh 198 in 63.5 overs (Priyam Garg 53, Rinku Singh 79, Ishan Porel 5/35) vs. Bengal 29/4 in 11 overs. **Toss:** Bengal.
Haryana 46 in 20.4 overs (Vaibhav Arora 4/15) vs. Himachal Pradesh 246/1 in 67 overs (Raghav Dhawan 86 batting, Prashant Chopra 137). **Toss:** Haryana.
Group B: Assam 249/7 in 85 overs (Rahul Hazarika 90, Riyan Parag 76, Sibsankar Roy 42) vs. Saurashtra. **Toss:** Saurashtra.
Andhra 238 in 74.4 overs (Uppara Girinath 45, Shoaib Md Khan 84, Tanush Kotian 4/91) vs. Mumbai 25/1 in 13 overs. **Toss:** Mumbai.
Hyderabad 256/5 in 70.4 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 116 batting, T. Ravi Teja 72) vs. Tamil Nadu. **Toss:** TN.
Delhi 191 in 48.2 overs (Dhruv Shorey 41, Yash Dhull 40, Himmat Singh 49, Manoj Ingale 5/43) vs. Maharashtra 80/5 in 28.2 overs (Naushad Shaikh 44 batting). **Toss:** Maharashtra.
Group C: Kerala 276/6 in 90 overs (Rohan Prem 79, Rohan Kunnummal 50, Sanju Samson 72) vs. Jharkhand. **Toss:** Kerala.
Karnataka 148/6 in 40 overs (Nikin Jose 62, Diwesh Pathania 5/40) vs. Services. **Toss:** Services.
Chhattisgarh 162 in 59 overs (Shahnawaz Hussain 43 n.o., Sagar Udeshi 4/36, Ankit Sharma 4/78) vs. Pondicherry 17/2 in 9 overs. **Toss:** Chhattisgarh.
Goa 210/5 in 85 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 81 batting, Snehal Kauthankar 59) vs. Rajasthan. **Toss:** Rajasthan.
Group D: Gujarat 271 in 75.3 overs (Priyank Panchal 111, Chintan Gaja 68, Manisankar Murasingh 5/74) vs. Tripura 1/0 in 1 over. **Toss:** Tripura.
Punjab 363/3 in 85 overs (Abhishek Sharma 100, Prabhsimran Singh 202) vs. Chandigarh. **Toss:** Chandigarh.
Madhya Pradesh 251/6 in 90 overs (Yash Dubey 81, Shubham Sharma 52, Rajat Patidar 62) vs. Jammu & Kashmir. **Toss:** MP.
Vidarbha 213 in 80.4 overs (Faiz Fazal 112, Atharva Taide 43, Karn Sharma 8/38) vs Railways 22/1 in 6.1 overs. **Toss:** Vidarbha.
Plate: Manipur 186 in 56.5 overs (Ronald Longjam 41, L. Kishan Singha 42 n.o.) vs. Sikkim 58/0 in 26 overs (Arun Chettri 41 batting). **Toss:** Manipur.
Arunachal Pradesh 212 in 74.3 overs (Akhilesh Sahani 66, Ashutosh Aman 4/36) vs. Bihar 50/0 in 13 overs. **Toss:** Arunachal Pradesh.
Mizoram 252 in 86.1 overs (Taruwar Kohli 123, Shreevats Goswami 74, Rajesh Bishnoi 4/62) vs. Meghalaya 0/0 in one over. **Toss:** Meghalaya.

Stokes, Green in focus as 405 go under the hammer

IPL MINI-AUCTION

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Premier all-rounders Ben Stokes of England and Cameron Green of Australia are set to enjoy bidding frenzy as 405 players will go under the hammer for 87 slots at the IPL mini-auction on December 23 in Kochi.

England's Test captain Stokes and the rising Aussie sensation Green are in the highest base price bracket of ₹2 crore, while former England Test captain Joe Root has also put his name up at ₹1 crore.

"Out of 405 players, 273 are Indians and 132 are overseas players of which four are from associate nations. The total capped players are 119, uncapped players are 282 and four from associate nations. A maximum of 87 slots are now available with up to 30 being slotted for overseas players," BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted in a media release. While Kolkata Knight Riders has the lowest purse available at ₹7.2 crore, Sunrisers Hyderabad, with ₹42.25 crore and 13 spots available, is expected to go on a buying spree after a poor last season.

Stokes... high stakes. FILE PHOTO

Punjab Kings is also likely to come out guns blazing with ₹32.20 crore in its kitty. Chennai Super Kings (₹20.45 crore), Lucknow Super Giants (₹23.35 crore), Mumbai Indians (₹20.55 crore), Delhi Capitals (₹19.45 crore) and defending champion Gujarat Titans (₹19.25 crore) can also go a fair distance for the players they want.

Soloist claims feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer R.H. Sequeira's Soloist ridden by Akshay Kumar won the Basalath Jah Memorial Cup, the main event of Tuesday's (Dec. 13) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. Gurpal Singh, Mr. N.P. Sharma & Mr. Alluri Ajay Kumar. Jockey Akshay Kumar stole the limelight by winning four races of the day.

1. **CHAITANYA RATHAM PLATE** (DIV. I) (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **HUGH CAPET** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Golden Inzio (Aneel) 2, Baisa (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Pinatubo (B. Nikhil) 4. 6-3/4, 1/2 and Hd. 1m 27. 39s. ₹16 (w), 10, 88 and 10 (p). SHP: 293, THP: 61, SHW: 12 and 175, FP: 555, Q: 540, Tanala: 942. Favourite: Hugh Capet.
Owner: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Trainer: Magan Singh.
2. **NIRMAL PLATE** (1,200m) (Terms), 2-y-o only (Cat. II): **HUNTINGDON** (Afroz Khan) 1, N R I Doublepower (Antony Raj) 2, Queen Empress (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Alexina (Santosh Raj) 4. 2-3/4, 4 and 1/2. 1m 14. 30s. ₹58 (w), 15, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 40, SHW: 25 and 14, FP: 181, Q: 44, Tanala: 354. Favourite: N R I Doublepower.
Owners: Mr. Vazhaparmbil John Joseph & Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur. Trainer: L.D' Silva.
3. **CHAITANYA RATHAM PLATE** (DIV. II) (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **CANDY GIRL** (Gaurav Singh) 1, Miss Marvellous (B.R. Kumar) 2, Sweet Dancer (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Soorya Vahan (Md. Ismail) 4. 1/2, 2-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 28. 78s. ₹21 (w), 10, 16 and 13 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 47, SHW: 14 and 28, FP: 60, Q: 77, Tanala: 124. Favourite: Candy Girl.
Owners: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.
4. **PALAMPET CUP** (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **MORIOR INVICTUS** (B. Nikhil) 1, Carlisle (Afroz Khan) 2, Briar Ridge (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Hashtag (Gaurav Singh) 4. 3/4, 1-1/2 and 2. 1m 13. 29s. ₹97 (w), 20, 12 and 14 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 41, SHW: 18 and 17, FP: 325, Q: 120, Tanala: 773. Favourite: Carlisle.
Owners: Mr. Premanand Sugandhi & Md. Sultan. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.
5. **STARRY SCENE PLATE** (1,200m), 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **LAURUS** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Mr. Perfect (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Unmatched (B.R. Kumar) 3 and High Reward (R.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: Flaming Falcon. Nk, 2-1/4 and 1. 1m 13. 74s. ₹32 (w), 12, 14 and 21 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 51, SHW: 35 and 10, FP: 121, Q: 42, Tanala: 403. Favourite: Mr. Perfect.
Owners: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta & Mr. Rafaat Hussain. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.
6. **BASALATH JAH MEMORIAL CUP** (1,200m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): **SOLOIST** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Kingston (Gaurav Singh) 2, Amyra (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Bedford (Suraj Narredu) 4. Not run: Falcon Edge. 3/4, 2 and Nose. 1m 13. 08s. ₹33 (w), 13, 33 and 20 (p). SHP: 101, THP: 58, SHW: 14 and 43, FP: 408, Q: 322, Tanala: 1,862. Favourite: Bedford.
Owners: Mr. Gurpal Singh, Mr. N.P. Sharma & Mr. Alluri Ajay Kumar. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.
7. **CYNDY PLATE** (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **TOP IN CLASS** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Royal Grace (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Shazam (D.S. Deora) 3 and Four One Four (Abhay Singh) 4. Not run: Beauty Flame. Hd, 2 and 2. 1m 27. 35s. ₹47 (w), 20, 17 and 15 (p). SHP: 49, THP: 55, SHW: 26 and 18, FP: 146, Q: 65, Tanala: 453. Favourite: Royal Grace.
Owners: Mr. Satyanarayana Reddy Pannala, Mr. Mirza Ayub Baig, Mr. M. Sudheer Reddy & Mr. Mohammed Abdul Wajid Khan. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.
Jackpot: 70%: ₹9,943 (34 tkts.), 30%: 1,197 (121 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: (i) 3,333 (13 tkts.), (ii) 4,848 (13 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 2,052 (15 tkts.), (ii) 432 (171 tkts.).

From the fringes to the centre of the charmed circle is a tricky road

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

You can play a 50-over match like a T20, but the reverse (playing T20 like it is a contraction of the 50-over game) does not work. India discovered this in Bangladesh, but in scoring 400-plus in a dead rubber hinted at possibilities. The essential problems, however, remain despite that victory.

It is to India's advantage that they are making their mistakes before rather than during the World Cup in October. In any case, Bangladesh are a difficult team to beat in bilateral series in their own backyard.

Coach Rahul Dravid's hope might be that his team present him with the problem of over-choice when the World Cup begins. At one time, India had several international wicketkeepers, yet in Bangladesh it was K.L. Rahul who was forced to keep wickets. It is a situation Dravid, a reluctant wicketkeeper, often found himself in during his playing days. There was over-choice in opening the batting. Gifted players like Prithvi Shaw, despite their domestic record, found it hard to secure a place for themselves. Ishan Kishan might not have played had Rohit Sharma been fit; his double century now ensures he will be looked at more seriously. From the fringes to the centre of the charmed circle in Indian cricket is a tricky road, as Sanju Samson knows. The talented Shubhman Gill is not yet a certainty, but his time will surely come.

Two leading bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravinder Jadeja, both certainties for the World Cup if they are fit, missed out in Bangladesh. Umran Malik did impress, and is probably closer to the centre of the circle than before, but Dravid will need more assurance. Unlike Test matches which are won by bowlers, ODIs are largely won by batsmen, and two out of three times India's batting let them down in Bangladesh. The rampage in the final didn't so much establish Ishan Kishan as remove lingering doubts over Virat Kohli. Current form is all that needs to be assessed in his case.

India play nine ODIs at home, three each against Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Australia, before the end of March. That gives them enough time for experimentation. The selectors and Dravid will already have in mind a pool of some 20 players or so from which they can pick their final squad. In effect, India will be playing against themselves, looking to work out the right combination, ensuring that players get sufficient rest ahead of the World Cup (the IPL follows the Australia series), and that injuries are properly attended to. It was worrying to hear Chetan Sharma, when chief of selectors say that an injured Bumrah might have been rushed into competition too soon.

India have to settle on the top four and the bottom four in their starting eleven with the focus on balance rather than record or reputation. This is because the first lot have to consistently set a fast tempo, while the last four, if they are all bowlers will mean the batting stops at No. 7, and that can be troubling. Hardik Pandya at six and Jadeja at seven give the team some manoueverability, but will India go in with just three specialist bowlers besides the two all-rounders? That will give them an extra batsman (or all rounder) at No. 8. Horses for courses will need to be the mantra.

Since 1983, when India won, they have gone into the World Cup as one of the favourites. They won at home in 2011. Often team selection has let them down, their reluctance to bench a senior player or a crowd favourite getting in the way of cricketing logic. They will be presented with those choices again, and will need to explain if things go wrong why they chose hope over team balance.

It will be interesting to see how India handle the dual responsibility of giving players a chance (either to succeed or fail) as the World Cup approaches, and ensuring that fitness is not an issue. There will be focus too on an all-rounder or two which will take some of the pressure away from the specialists.

Vasseur joins Ferrari

FORMULA ONE

Reuters

Formula One teams changed bosses in a flurry of post-season appointments on Tuesday, with Frederic Vasseur becoming Ferrari principal and Andreas Seidl moving swiftly from McLaren to replace him at Sauber.

Italian Andrea Stella, who started out as an engineer at Ferrari, was named as British-based McLaren's new team principal.

Ferrari said Vasseur would join as team principal and general manager on Jan. 9.

"Throughout his career he has successfully combined his technical strengths as a trained engineer with a consistent ability to bring out the best in his drivers and teams," said chief executive Benedetto Vigna.

McLaren, whose majority shareholder is Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund Mumtalakat, said Seidl had been transparent about his discussions and thanked him for his contribution.

Vasseur. AP

"He has provided great leadership for the team and has played a significant part in our F1 performance recovery plan and ongoing journey to return to the front of the grid," said McLaren Racing CEO Zak Brown.

He said Stella's promotion showed the strength in depth at a team that finished fifth last season and has Australian rookie Oscar Piastri joining alongside Britain's Lando Norris.

Sauber said Seidl had been appointed group chief executive, a role Vasseur filled, with the search ongoing for a new principal.